

ART4883

MAKING+MEANING

School of Art + Art History University of Florida



otobong nkanga

Fall 2025 | Mon/Wed 8:30am -11:30am | FAD 205 | 3 credits

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Office Hours Monday 3pm-4pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Making + Meaning is a studio course that explores the creation of art in combination with non-arts related research. Inquiry surrounding the making of art and how it can inform meaning and conversely how meaning can inform making will stimulate ideation and production. Engaging in an active studio practice, students will develop a deeper connection with the work they create and the underlying significance of their motives and intentions. Students will work as both individuals and collaboratively. Media use is dependent on students' area of interest, however, dialogue will surround the contextualization of media and what particular materials best inform the intentions of the artist. Comprehensive research and ideation will be documented in a sketchbook on a daily basis. Regular critiques, class discussions, will play a significant role in the class experience. Historical and contemporary artists will be explored. The majority of class will be dedicated to developing individual projects and professional development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To create art works that visually and theoretically connect with non-arts related research
2. To engage in and critically examine the creative process through ideation, experimentation and research
3. To effectively communicate and articulate ideas and research through the art of making
4. To strengthen studio methodologies and successfully work both individually and collaboratively
5. To explore and describe historical and contemporary artists who engage with non-art related topics

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CRITIQUE

- Critiques of student work will occur both formally and informally throughout the semester. There will be two formal critique sessions: One about midway and the second in the final week. Each student will have a new artist statement at each formal session and will provide copies for all in attendance. Students must have work up and ready to be critiqued *before* 2pm. Access to the critique room, FAD 113, will be provided.
- Work needs to be complete (level of completion to be determined by instructor) in order to be discussed. Students who are late to critique will be expected to participate in discussion, but their own work will not be displayed or receive feedback from peers. They will receive feedback from the instructor following critique (but before the end of class) or during office hours, whichever time best suits both parties.

ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS

- PROJECTS: There will be 4 linked studio projects. All material and media requirements are dependent on the students' needs per each project.
- INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS: There will be informal *sources* presentation at the beginning of the semester so that each student presents their art & ideas to the class through a 5 minute presentation in FAD 111. They will in turn acquaint themselves with the artwork and interests of their peers.
- IDEA BOOK: Students will maintain a 6"x8" sketch book of all research: notes, sketches, ideation, creative writings, etc. This is a rigorous, daily activity to be conducted throughout the semester. Habitual documentation is expected covering about 50 fully developed pages. Posting pages a week via discussion post is expected.
- READING DISCUSSION + RESPONSES: Various readings and media will be assigned throughout the semester and discussed through a discussion post. You will respond to the readings via a 2-3 paragraph written response. You will also respond to at least two of your peers reading responses. It is your responsibility to be prepared, engaged and ready to discuss and listen.
- ARTIST STATEMENTS: At least two new artist statements will be written during the semester
- WEBSITE: All students are required to manage a website or blog that showcases their work, statement and activity from this class. The website address should be part of the student's professional portfolio. Please have this in place just before midterm. Sites to consider: weebly.com, squarespace.com, otherpeoplespixels.com, blogger.com, etc.
- RESEARCH IGNITE PRESENTATION: Students will present a 5 minute overview of their research in preparation for their Source Presentation (Artist Talk).
- SOURCES PRESENTATION: Throughout the semester, via readings, research, and various activities you will explore ideas and ultimately create a 10 minute presentation regarding your artwork, research concepts, inspirations, etc. This will resemble a professional artist talk.

Much research will go into this presentation. Creativity will be essential in its formation. There are a lot of bad public speakers who do not engage or inspire their audience; the goal is not to be one of them. Be creative and thorough. Essentially the presentation should fully describe and communicate the creative identity of the student.

- PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO (In specific order below): Due at the end of the semester. Please organise all items in a professional manner. If your work is not suited to this format, make it work. Portfolio will include:

CV (max 2 pages) with all contact info including website link.

Artist Statement (max 1 page).

Images: Thumbnail image page/s of finished body of work for the semester clearly labeled with description of work.

Work should be uploaded individually onto Canvas.

Course Schedule

Course schedule can be found on Canvas

COURSE REFERENCES AND MATERIALS

READINGS: Course pdfs will be made available per assignment.

MEDIA: This is an advanced course and thus **you** are responsible for all the materials you choose to employ during class.

Be prepared with as many supplies/media as necessary to get you started during the first week. Be prepared with paper, clay, paint, wood, fabric, drawing tools, wire, canvas, etc.

IDEABOOK: Habitual documentation is expected covering at least 50 fully developed pages. Mixed media, heavyweight paper desired. Minimum size of 6"x8". This is a dedicated sketchbook solely for this course.

GRADING OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have a variety of grading opportunities with projects done in and outside of class. Students will be evaluated on participation in class and critiques, attitude, progress, idea development, execution of ideas, craftsmanship and presentation.

- 40% Studio Projects
- 15% IDEABook
- 15% Peer Critique Discussion
- 10% Reading Response Discussion
- 10% Participation (live classes and critique, exercises)
- 5% Sources Presentation
- 5% Portfolio/Website

GRADING STANDARDS & EVALUATION

Evaluation for each project or portfolio will be based on the following criteria (in no particular order): Concept (Conceptual Rigor, Ideation/Evolution from proposal to finished work)

Creative Solutions (Inventiveness. Ability to solve problems and devise new approaches for achieving course objectives and personal goals. Successful resolution of the assigned problem)

Criteria (Evidence of experimentation within the parameters of the project guidelines) ü

Dedication + Effort (Work Ethic, Technical Innovation and Craftsmanship)

• A (94-100) - Superlative work: careful attention to craft and presentation. Originality of idea and execution work. Goes beyond merely solving the problem – one who performs at this level is visibly outstanding, work is outstanding in every respect.

• A-/B+ (87-93) - Very fine work: almost superlative. A few minor changes could have been considered and executed to bring the piece together. Again, goes beyond merely solving the problem.

• B (83-86) - Above average: solution to the problem and idea well planned. Execution well done. This is an honorable grade.

• B-/C+ (77-82) - A bit above average: slipping in levels of originality, craft, and presentation. The piece does not work well as a unified whole or statement, yet effort was made.

• C (73-76) - You have solved the problem; the requirements of the problem are met in a relatively routine way including your concepts. You have neglected the basic craftsmanship skills and breadth and the depth of idea development.

• C-/D+ (67-72) - You have solved the problem but there is much room for improving your skills and further developing

• D/D- (60-66) - Inadequate work: the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/or incomplete effort. Work is substandard.

• E (0-59) - Unacceptable work and effort

• Please Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.

GRADING POLICIES

Please see the UF grading policy at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpoliciestext>

- Late Work: All late work will be lowered by 10% each day it is late (not each class day). All work presented late for a critique will not take part in critique. All assignments must be completed in order to pass this class
- Critiques: If a student is late, absent or does not participate in a live critique, they will receive 5pts off their project grade for that assignment. Exceptions are determined if the absence, lateness or reason for being unprepared is excused by the University or instructor. Students must be present for the final live critique in order to receive credit for the final project
- Students will have the opportunity to rework studio projects. There must be noted improvement for an increase in grade. All original work submissions must remain intact within the Project Discussion posts. All projects can be reworked and resubmitted prior to the final week, at the end of the semester in the Assignment dropbox. An email to the instructor notifying her of the resubmission is required, otherwise it will not be seen.

As a studio course your attendance and active participation is required. Students are expected to attend all classes. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period. Full participation includes showing completed work during all scheduled critiques as well as active participation through shared ideas and commentary about your work and the work of your peers. Unexcused absences will be cause for a lowered grade. Your fourth unexcused absence will result in ONE full letter grade drop. Absences will be counted from the first class meeting onward.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students may only participate in classes if they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class, or any required class activity must inform the instructor as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities because of the reasons outlined above.

If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and they have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS GUIDELINES

At the University of Florida, students and faculty work together to allow students the opportunity to observe the holy days of their faith. A student should inform the faculty member of the religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance, with tests or examinations, or with other class activities prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity.

The faculty member is then obligated to accommodate that particular student's religious observances. Because students represent a myriad of cultures and many faiths, the University of Florida is not able to assure that scheduled academic activities do not conflict with the holy days of all religious groups. Accordingly, individual students should make their need for an excused absence known in advance of the scheduled activities.

The Florida Board of Education and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays.

Guidelines

- Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith.
- Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
- Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

- If a faculty member is informed of or is aware that a significant number of students are likely to be absent from class because of a religious observance, the faculty member should not schedule a major exam or other academic event at that time.
- A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence. Furthermore, a student who believes that they have been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

ILLNESS POLICY

A student who is absent from class or any required class-related activity because of illness should contact their instructor, if feasible, as early as possible prior to the missed class or activity.

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during an excused absence.

Students should contact their college by the deadline to drop a course for medical reasons. Students can petition the [Dean of Students Office](#) to drop a course for medical reasons. The university's policy regarding [medical excuse](#) from classes is maintained by the Student Health Care Center.

TWELVE DAY RULE

Students who participate in university-sponsored athletic or scholarly activities are permitted to be absent 12 scholastic days per semester without penalty. A scholastic day is any day on which regular class work is scheduled as defined in the approved university calendar. [More Info](#)

The student or student's advisor must notify the instructor as early as possible prior to the anticipated absence to allow ample time for accommodations. Instructors must be flexible and not penalize students when re-scheduling during-term and final exams, class assignments, and other required activities and must follow the UF Attendance Policy herein and UF Examination Policies. As noted in the UF Examination Policies, during-term exams should be re-scheduled no later than before the end of the semester, while final exams no later than 90 days after the originally scheduled exam time. However, instructors are encouraged to re-schedule final and during-term exams, assignments, and other activities as soon as possible after the last day of the absence and must not penalize the student in any way. [More Info](#)

A group's schedule that requires absence of more than 12 scholastic days should be adjusted so that no student is absent from campus more than 12 scholastic days. Students who previously have been warned in writing by their instructor about the impact of absences on their individual class performance should not incur additional absences, even if they have not been absent 12 scholastic days. The student is responsible to maintain satisfactory academic performance and attendance.

TARDINESS

Arrival to class after start of class will be noted and three such incidences will count as one absence. Leaving early from class will also be considered as tardiness and will be counted as such. Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

LATE WORK

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Due dates are announced in class and posted on canvas.

Late work is not accepted (unless with prior approval from instructor due to an excused absence).

If the timeline states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late.

You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your work will not be critiqued.

It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Students must check their school email accounts regularly and the E-Learning course site. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their UF email accounts. Instructor will take care to answer emails within a 24 hour period.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES

Silence all devices before entering the classroom. Students may use headphones while working on projects.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION

Read the SAAH Health and Safety Program at:

https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saah_health_and_safety_handbook_2021.pdf

Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given to you and signed during studio). SA+AH facilities have an area designated for art materials/hazardous waste pickup. This area should NOT be used for art making. Bins and storage containers utilized in this area should NEVER be moved or used for any other purpose. When in doubt about the safety or disposal of your art materials, please speak with faculty. A Handbook of Hazardous Wastes Disposal, Health and Safety is posted in the studio for consultation as well.

LOCKERS AND STORAGE

The SAAH is not responsible for items in lockers. Please watch for posted signs on lockers regarding their use.

Each student must share a locker with three students. You are responsible for keeping the locker form attached AT ALL TIMES to your lockers. Lockers will be cleaned out at the end of each semester. When storing materials, you must write your name on everything with a black marker, the course you are in and the instructor's name. The SAAH is not responsible for items left in classrooms.

STUDIO USE

Please read and respect studio use guidelines posted in classrooms. Do not pour solvents down sinks. Fixative must be sprayed in the FAC 2nd Floor spray booth * NO exceptions. *Each student is responsible for assisting in studio clean-up. Your instructor will assign you a duty at the end of each class. The classroom should be organized at the end of each class 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the next class with the help of all students enrolled in the course. No food or open drink containers are allowed in the studio.

SHARED STUDIO

Always leave the studio clean. Regardless of the condition you find it in, we request that you leave it clean for the next person. Remember to place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the worktables clear and clean. This is a shared workspace, and we all need to be diligent together to keep it an immaculate and productive environment.

UF POLICY FOR IN-CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted

on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

UF SAFETY AND SECURITY

University Police Department: <https://police.ufl.edu> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (Snap) call 392-SNAP (92-7627)

SNAP provides nightly escorts anywhere on campus to persons on request. The service is staffed by students, equipped and supervised by the university police department. Escorts are routed on foot and driven trips. Contact SNAP via telephone providing first name, location of pick-up and destination to the dispatcher who determines the best method of meeting the requester's need. A walking or driving escort is dispatched to the location.

UF RESOURCES FOR HEALTH/WELLNESS

University Counseling Services: 352-392-1575 <https://counseling.ufl.edu> Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university. Counseling Center Web site: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/office/counseling-wellness-center/>
Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website <https://shcc.ufl.edu>

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-traumacenter>

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu> or call 352-273-4450.

UF PHILOSOPHY

The University of Florida is an institution that encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals require the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs. In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Faculty, Students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees [hereinafter referred to as "member(s)" of the University], who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior. UF Student Honor Code including individual academic and social responsibility can be found at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/12/Orange-Book-Web-Version-2020.pdf>

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.blueria.com>

UF COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.