

**Art, Imperialism and Cultures of Resistance**  
(ARH 4931)



Image: Ramona Parra Brigade, Mural in Dante Building, Chile, 1979.



Image: Trevor Paglen, *The Black Sites – The Salt Pit*, Northeast of Kabul, Afghanistan, 2006.

**Wednesday | Period 8-10: 3 PM – 6 PM**

**Location:** FAC 116A

**Credits:** 3

**Course fees:** \$13.50

**Prerequisite:** art history seniors or permission from art history department

**Instructor:** Álvaro Luís Lima

**Contact:** [lima@ufl.edu](mailto:lima@ufl.edu) or (352)294-0556 (e-mail preferred)

**Office Hours:** FAC 121 Wednesdays | Period 11: 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM and by appointment

**Course Canvas Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/543693>

**Course Description:** Contemporary cultural history of the Global South is typically narrated through the fight against colonial regimes and the rise of national movements. Although national independences were hard-won victories to be celebrated, the emphasis on the creation of independent states as the hallmark of liberation can at times flatten class divisions, balkanize shared political struggles, and occlude the perpetuation of Western domination through evolving capitalist demands. This is why postcolonial Mozambicans rallied under the banner “the struggle continues!”; they understood the need for an ongoing resistance to imperialism and its threat of co-option of the very language and institutions created by popular movements. This seminar considers the discourse of imperialism from the Cold War to the present, giving special attention to its expression in art and visual culture. The global nature of the topic is reflected in case studies from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the United States. Themes will include the politics of representing war, artistic freedom, cultural diplomacy, national security, and development. Through class discussion, close reading, individual and collective research, and in-depth analysis of works of art, films, and other cultural objects, the seminar will consider strategies for creating cultures of resistance.

**Course Objectives:**

- Build critical analysis of major debates on the logic of imperialism.
- Examine and assess primary sources and scholarly literature of art history and culture since the Cold War.
- Formulate oral and written analyses of historical and scholarly sources and works of art in their historical and cultural contexts.
- Develop oral argumentation and presentation skills through class discussion and final presentation.
- Polish skills in writing about art through writing assignments.
- Nuance research skills and research agenda by writing a final paper.

**Required Readings:** Required readings will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and/or available at the library. Students may choose to purchase book-length readings for their convenience. Readings should be done in preparation for classes. Please, bring a hard copy of the reading to class to allow optimal participation. Input in class discussion of the readings will be an essential part of the participation grade.

**Requirements and Grading**

**Assessments:**

- 20%: Attendance and Participation in Class (throughout the semester)  
To get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but also to actively engage in discussions. In preparation for every meeting, students should have read all the required material, highlighting relevant portions and taking notes to be brought for discussion.

Students will also be asked to mediate classes as an additional responsibility to ensure flow of discussion.

- 20%: Working Group Participation and Peer Support (throughout the semester)  
Students will be split into three working groups where they will brainstorm ideas for each other's papers, discuss mutually relevant sources, and give constructive feedback on work in progress.
- 30%: Symposium Presentation (11/19 & 12/3)  
Students will deliver a professional academic presentation of their individual research in a symposium format and entertain comments from the audience.
- 30%: Final Paper (12/10)  
The paper should follow proper academic formatting, demonstrate substantial research, and express critical engagement with the material. When appropriate, the final paper should reflect material covered in class, and consideration for feedback received in working groups and during symposium discussion.

**Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:**

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

**Submission of Assignments:** All assignments should be submitted/conducted through Canvas. Delays may incur in a grade penalty. Further details on all assignments and exams will be provided during the semester.

**Please note:**

- Completion of all assignments and exams is necessary to pass the course.
- Any grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.
- For more information on UF's grading policies and assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	93 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 92	3.67
B+	87 to 89	3.33
B	83 to 86	3.00
B-	80 to 82	2.67
C+	77 to 79	2.33
C	73 to 76	2.00
C-	70 to 72	1.67
D+	67 to 69	1.33
D	63 to 66	1.00
D-	60 to 62	0.67
E, I, NG, WF	59 and below	0.00

**Course Instructions and Policies**

**Attendance:** Attendance to all classes is expected, including museum visits. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation or doctor's note.

**No Electronic Devices:** The use of electronic devices, including computers, will not be allowed during class, unless required by DRC. Assigned readings should be printed and brought to the class for consultation. Class notes should be taken by hand.

**Electronic Communication:** Announcements about the class may be sent by e-mail, so please check it regularly. All electronic communication should be made through your official UF account. I will answer your e-mails as quickly as I can, but please allow forty-eight hours for responses.

**Plagiarism and Other Malpractices:** UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the Honor Code, and student conduct related to the Honor Code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For more information on the Honor Code, see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. Please notice that the use of AI technologies to complete any assignments for this course is strictly forbidden. If you have any questions or concerns on this, please feel free to speak to me.

**For Students with Disabilities:** If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability you should first register with the Disability Resource Center [(352) 392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>] by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**For Academic Policies and Resources:** <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

**Diversity Statement:** This course is committed to respecting difference, including of ability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. As part of this effort, the intent is to present content that explores diverse points of view. As a class, we should strive to create an atmosphere in which students from all backgrounds and perspectives will be well-served by the course, and different backgrounds and perspectives will be used as a resource, strength, and benefit. It will be both my responsibility and yours to accomplish these goals. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

**Faculty Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Schedule:**

**8/27: Introduction**

**9/3: The Imperialist Logic**

**9/10: The Imperialist Logic II**

**9/17: Coup**

**9/24: Modern Art and the Cold War**

**10/1: Art as Weapon**

**10/8: Red Star**

**10/15: The Battle of Chile**

**10/22: Memories of Underdevelopment**

**10/29: Serious Games**

**11/5: Torture**

**11/12: The Anti-Politics Machine**

**11/19: Symposium I**

**11/26: No class (Thanksgiving Break)**

**12/3: Symposium II**