

ARH4471: Late Twentieth-Century Art
School of Art + Art History, University of Florida
Fall 2025

Instructor: Professor Douglas Gabriel

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Class Periods

Mondays: Period 8 (3:00 PM – 3:50 PM)

Wednesdays: Periods 8–9 (3:00 PM – 4:55 PM)

Room: FAC 0201

Office: FAC 119-B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:55 PM – 3:50 PM and by appointment

Course Description

This course tracks developments in contemporary art from roughly the 1960s to the early 2000s. We will trace the proliferation of significant artistic strategies and tactics not only throughout Euro-North American contexts, but also across the globe. Key themes will include the rejection of meta-narratives and a turn toward the critique of such concepts as originality, truth, and progress. Key events—from the Vietnam War to the HIV/AIDS crisis—will be analyzed as social and political contexts inextricable from the artworks we study.

Objectives

- To identify major forms, actors, and episodes in the history of contemporary art
- To describe contemporary artworks both formally and historically
- To comprehend different approaches to and definitions of art in the contemporary era
- To understand artworks as objects that not only reflect, but also produce history
- To develop skills of close reading, visual analysis, active listening, and engaged discussion

Course Materials: All readings will be provided as PDF files.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance: 20%

Artwork Response Posts: 15%

Discussion Points/Questions: 15%

Midterm: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

AI Teaching Assignment: 20%

Please note: 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	94 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 93	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

Attendance Policy

Because of the structure of this course and the teaching methods utilized, attendance is mandatory. However, students who need to miss class, and who consult with the professor, will be given the opportunity (and ample time) to make up all missed classes. It is the student's responsibility to initiate communication with the professor about how they might do so, as the make-up assignments will vary depending on the topic of and activities incorporated into a given class.

This policy is consistent with the stipulations provided in the University of Florida's guidelines on attendance policies. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Artwork Response Posts:

For **ten** of the twenty regular lectures, students should submit short 1–2 paragraph posts responding to a single artwork covered in class. You are free to look up additional information about the work and/or the artist, but please focus on your own response to it as a viewer. These posts are meant to give you space to reflect, draw connections, and pose questions that emerge as you give sustained attention to a single artwork. These are to be done within 48 hours following a given lecture.

Throughout the semester there will also be optional lectures and gallery talks that students can choose to attend and write a short response to. Each response of this type will count for *two* of the required ten response posts.

Discussion Points / Questions

For classes that have required readings or film screenings to be completed before class, students should prepare (and post to Canvas) 3–5 discussion points or questions related to the material. These will help guide our discussion in class. Please post these by 2 PM the day of a given class.

Midterm and Final Exam

Exams will be take-home in format, and students will have one week to complete a series of short essay responses and creative prompts.

AI Teaching Assignment

In lieu of a final paper, students will create a lesson and teach an AI chatbot about a concise aspect of contemporary art. In addition to the transcript of the interaction, students will write a short reflection about the experience. Details will be provided in class.

Schedule

Monday, August 25: **Introduction to the “Modern” and the “Contemporary”**

Wednesday, August 27: **The Politics of Pop Art**

Monday, September 1: **Labor Day (No Class)**

Wednesday, September 3: **The Black Mountain College After-Effect**

Monday, September 8: **Leaping into the Void: Nouveau Réalisme**

Wednesday, September 10: **Instructions for Use: Happenings + Fluxus**

Monday, September 15: **Op Art and Psychedelic Design(s)**

Wednesday, September 17: **Presence Is Grace: Minimalism and Post-Minimalism**

Monday, September 22: **Spectacular 1968: The Situationist International**

Wednesday, September 24: **Art and the Vietnam War + Conceptual Art**

Monday, September 29: **Performance and Body Art**

Wednesday, October 1: **The Frontlines of Feminism**

Monday, October 6: **Earthworks / Land Art**

Wednesday, October 8: **Visit to the Harn Museum of Art**

Monday, October 13: **Take-Home Midterm (Due by Sunday, October 19, at 11:59 PM)**

Wednesday, October 15: **Visit to University Galleries + Studios**

Monday, October 20: **Art and the HIV/AIDS Crisis**

Wednesday, October 22: **Postmodernism**

Monday, October 27: **Neo-Expressionism**

Wednesday, October 29: **Institutional Critique + Graffiti and Outsider Art**

Monday, November 3: **Opening the Iron Curtain: Post-Socialist Art**

Wednesday, November 5: **The Culture Wars of the Late 1980s and 1990s**

Monday, November 10: **Relational Aesthetics and Participatory Art**

Wednesday, November 12: **Multiculturalism in the 1990s**

Monday, November 17: **Art as Mega-Event: The Biennale Boom**

Wednesday, November 19: **New Technologies of Contemporary Art**

Monday, November 24: **Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**

Wednesday, November 26: **Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**

Monday, December 1: **Open Ends: Are We Post-Contemporary?**

Wednesday, December 3: **Review for Final Exam**

Final Exam and AI Teaching Assignment Due by Wednesday, December 10 at 11:59 PM

Additional Information and Resources:

For the latest UF academic policies and resources, as well as campus health and wellness resources, please visit <http://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>