

ARH 3810 Methods of Research in Art History

For Sophomore and Junior Majors

University of Florida, School of Art + Art History, Spring Semester 2026

Professor Ashley Jones, ashley.jones@ufl.edu

Office Hours, FAC 119a, Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00pm

Seminar, Mondays, periods 8-10, 3-6pm

Course Description:

This course provides sophomore and junior art history majors with a foundational overview of the history of theories of art and of research in the visual arts and a practical roadmap for researching and writing an art history paper.

Course Goals:

- Learn philosophical and theoretical approaches to writing about the visual arts from antiquity to the twenty-first century
- Practice critically reading and analyzing scholarly texts in art history.
- Formulate discussion questions and guide peers through seminar discussion.
- Gain experience in researching and writing an original art history research paper.
- Prepare and deliver an oral presentation of original research paper.

Requirements:

This course has information available through UF's e-learning website called "Canvas." The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available on Canvas. A passing grade requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed below. The scheduled lectures and reading assignments are subject to change upon the discretion of the instructor. It is the students' responsibility to check their UF email, their Canvas email, and listen to announcements in class pertaining to those potential changes to ensure they are up to date on assignments. The final grade is comprised of the following elements:

- Attendance **5%** and Active participation in discussion **10%**
- Preparation, presentation, and discussion-leading of one article **5%**
- Object Description Paper **5%**
- 3 Reaction Papers, **5% each = 15%**
- Peer Review Participation (graded as complete/incomplete) **10%**
- Annotated Bibliography and Paper Outline **15%**
- Paper Presentation **15%**
- Final Paper **20%**

Description of Graded Work

Attendance 5%

Regular attendance is necessary to fulfill the participation requirement and ensure success in the class and a record of attendance will be kept. Attendance will be taken orally or via sign in sheet at the beginning of each class meeting. The instructor reserves the right to mark you

absent if you arrive late or leave early. If you miss a class meeting, you will still be responsible for all course content and logistical information covered during the class. Class will begin and end promptly. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible in the event of illness, emergency, or other unavoidable absence from class.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalogue at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Participation: 10%

Each class meeting will include discussion of the week's readings and other material presented in class. Students are assigned 3 points per course hour each week based on their participation (see the participation rubric below). A percentage is calculated based on the total number of participation points available in a semester, usually about 100. This then counts as 15% of the overall grade. If you have issues that inhibit you from joining freely in class discussion, please see the instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Participation Rubric

Total Points: 9	High Quality	Average	Needs Improvement
Informed: Shows evidence of having done the assigned reading	3	2	1
Thoughtful: Shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised.	3	2	1
Considerate: Takes the perspective of others into account.	3	2	1

Other Written and Oral Assignments:

Each student will select a single object, or a discreet group of objects (subject to instructor approval) at the beginning of the semester. These will be introduced to the class at the second meeting, and will subsequently serve as the basis for your written work throughout the semester.

1. Discussion Leading 5%: Once during the semester you will be responsible for selecting a reading relevant to your research paper, presenting the assigned readings and leading discussion.

2. Object Description Paper 5%: After completing an assigned reading, you will write a one page ekphrasis, or description of your chosen object(s). This does not have to contain an argument, per se, yet, but will form the basis of your later work in the course. **Due Monday January 19.**

3. 3 Response/Reaction Papers 5% each: Using your selected object as a lens or case study, you will write one reaction paper to a reading or readings of your choice three times throughout the course of the class. **Due February 9, March 9, and April 6.**

4. Peer Review (graded as complete/incomplete) 10%: You will share your Object Description and your Response Papers with your peers, and you will be responsible for writing one paragraph of constructive comments on the papers of one of your classmates (this will be done on a rotating basis and not with a single partner). Peer reviews are due one week after description and response papers are due.

5. Research Paper (Annotated Bibliography and Outline 15%; Oral Presentation 15%; final paper 20%): Throughout the semester you will be researching and writing a 15-page paper on the subject of your choice. A proposed outline and annotated bibliography are due on February 23. The final paper is due April 27. You will also present an abbreviated version of your paper in one of the last two weeks of the class.

Campus Health and Safety Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 911. Reach the emergency room at 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

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

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161

Academic Policies and Resources:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Important Dates:

January 12: First Day of Class

January 15: Drop/Add Deadline

January 19: Object Description Paper Due

January 26: Peer Review #1 due

February 9: Final deadline to submit Response Paper #1

February 16: Peer Review #2 due

February 23: Annotated Bibliography and Proposed Paper Outline Due

March 9: Final deadline to submit Response Paper #2

March 23: Peer Review #3 Due

April 6: Final deadline to submit Response Paper #3

April 20: Peer Review #4 Due, Last Day of Class

April 27: Final papers/projects Due

Course Outline:

Week 1:

Monday January 12:
Introduction and Course Overview

Week 2:

Monday January 19: NO CLASS, MLK Day
Object Description Paper Due

Week 3:

Monday January 26:
Style, Authorship, and Connoisseurship
Peer Review #1 due

Week 4:

Monday February 2:
The Politics and Problematics of Collecting and Display

Week 5:

Monday February 9:
Using the Library
Final deadline to submit Response Paper #1

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Week 6:

Monday February 16:
Iconography, Iconology, and Semiotics
Peer Review #2 due

Week 7:

Monday February 23:
Social Histories of Art
Annotated Bibliography and Proposed Paper Outline Due

Week 8:

Monday March 2:
Objects and Agents

Week 9:

Monday March 9:
Places and Spaces
Final deadline to submit Response Paper #2

March 16-20 SPRING BREAK

Week 10:

Monday March 23:
Student—directed readings and discussion

Week 11:

Monday March 30:
Student—directed readings and discussion

Week 12:

Monday April 6:
Student—directed readings and discussion
Final deadline to submit Response Paper #3

Week 13:

Monday April 13:
Student Presentations

Week 14:

Monday April 20:
Student Presentations
Peer Review #4 Due

April 27: **Final Papers Due**