

CURATORIAL SEMINAR / ISLAA ARTIST INITIATIVE
University of Florida, School of Art + Art History, Spring 2022

Instructor

Professor Kaira M. Cabañas

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Office hours: Mondays, 11:30-12:30, and by appointment

Course details

ARH4931: Art History Seminar

Mondays: Periods 2 - 4 (8:30am-11:30am)

1/09/23 - 4/26/23

SAAH Values

We believe in community and transformation. We aspire to be courageous, generous, and engaged.

- **Community:** We foster a diverse and inclusive community through mutual respect and acceptance.
- **Transformation:** We pursue positive transformation and impact through education, research, and creative works.
- **Courage:** We ask challenging questions, take risks, and strive for excellence.
- **Generosity:** We assume the best in others and enable a culture where everyone can flourish.
- **Engagement:** We believe the diverse contributions of art, design, and scholarship are critical to our community and beyond.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

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

<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

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/>

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <https://police.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; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website. <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

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

COURSE OVERVIEW

Important dates to remember

Monday, January 16: No class. Holiday.

Monday, February 6: Writing Assignment 1 due (750 words)

Monday, March 6: Writing Assignment 2 due (500 words + bibliography)

Monday, March 13: No class. Spring Break.

Thursday, March 30, 6PM: ATTEND HESCAH EVENT

Posing Questions on Posing Beauty: A Conversation with Deborah Willis

Monday, April 3: Research Day

Wednesday, April 19, 6PM: ATTEND HESCAH LECTURE

Out of Africa: Objects Encountering Theory in Europe

Monday, April 24: Final Presentations due (15 minutes)

Monday, May 1, 5pm: Final Writing Assignment due (1,500 words)

Dates for the individual presentations on the weekly readings will be scheduled on the first day of class. The precise date and order of the final research presentations will be scheduled in the weeks after the submission of your abstract for your final research paper.

*The number of presentations may change and is contingent upon enrollment.

Course Description

Explores key exhibitions and curators central to the history of art. Investigations will cover various art collections and exhibition formats, from the emergence of the modern museum in the eighteenth century to present-day global biennial culture. Students will engage historical and methodological questions in relation to art exhibition history and the key role of curators within it.

This Curatorial Studies seminar includes a focus on the modern and contemporary art of Latin America and is the second iteration of a collaboration between the Art History program; University Galleries; and the Artist Seminar Initiative of the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), which supports academic institutions in fostering intimate exchanges between students and living artists from Latin America. The artists whose work

will inform the seminar include José Gabriel Fernández and Valerie Brathwaite, who will also be invited as guests to lead discussions on their work. The seminar will be followed by an exhibition of the artists' work at University Galleries and a catalogue publication in fall 2023. Students who participate in the seminar are encouraged to write a one-page letter of interest, expressing their desire to collaborate on the exhibition and/or publication, and how.

Course Objectives

- Provide an overview of the exhibitions, curatorial practice, and artists central to the history of art exhibitions in the modern era.
- Inform students about a variety of historical and methodological questions in relation to the history of exhibitions and the history of curating.
- To have students learn and critically engage the key concepts in the history, theory and practice of art collection and display through course readings, written assignments, and oral presentations.
- To enhance students visual acuity and understanding of exhibitions through the description and interpretation of art's display.
- Prepare and lead seminar discussions

Course Requirements

Writing Assignment 1 (10%)

Writing Assignment 2 (10%)

Final presentation (15%)

Final Writing Assignment (30%)

Presentations on the assigned readings for a week (15%)

Presentation on an exhibition in, of, from Latin America and/or its diaspora (10%)

Participation and attendance (10%)

- Readings must be completed before seminar; this is essential to the course.
- Completion of all assignments is necessary to pass the course.
- Students must arrive with questions about the readings to present and be prepared to be called upon by the discussion leader.
- Students are expected to perform as academic citizens and attend exhibitions and lectures organized by HESCAH, SA+AH, and University Galleries.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Learn first-hand from a living artist from Latin America about their work and the contexts of its production
- Perfect their abilities to read, write about, and discuss scholarly texts in relation to exhibition histories and living artists' works
- Carefully examine and assess scholarly and curatorial literature through individual presentations and group discussion
- Refine their scholarly research and writing skills in relation to contemporary artistic

practice and exhibition history

—Understand major issues in the history of curatorial practice as it relates to the art of Latin America

—Produce a substantial research paper

—Effectively communicate their research through a final presentation

Textbooks

Readings will be placed on RESERVE and E-RESERVE by the Fine Arts Library or available through Canvas.

Assignments

1. Weekly question

Students must arrive with a minimum of one written question about the readings be prepared to be called upon by the discussion leader.

2. Reading presentation (10-15 minutes max) / Discussion leading

Over the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for a short presentation to launch discussion on an assigned reading.

3. Presentation on an exhibition in, of, from Latin America: 10-15 minutes (max)

Over the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for a 1 short presentation on a key exhibition in the history of modern art from Latin America.

4. Writing Assignment 1: 750 words Due: February 6

This is a 3-page paper (approximately 750 words) and should address how a specific art museum or art institution in the United States has demonstrated a commitment to modern and contemporary art from Latin America.

5. Writing Assignment 2: Abstract (500 words) and preliminary bibliography Due: March 6

Write a 500-word abstract about your proposed research topic and include a preliminary bibliography of 5 published and printed sources.

6. Final research presentation: 15 minutes Due: April 24, and TBA

The final presentation is a polished draft of the final research paper

7. Final paper: 1,500 words Due: May 1 by 5pm

This is a 6-page paper on the history of an exhibition, biennial, or other internationally curated art event in, of, from Latin America.

Weekly schedule

WEEK 1 | Monday, January 9 | Introduction and Enrollment

WEEK 2 | Monday, January 16 | HOLIDAY

WEEK 3 | Monday, January 23 | What Makes a Great Exhibition?

WEEK 4 | Monday, January 30 | The Emergence of the Art Museum

WEEK 5 | Monday, February 6 | The Museum of Modern Art
DUE: Writing Assignment 1

WEEK 6 | Monday, February 13 | "*Primitivism*" in 20th Century Art at MoMA, 1984–85 | & |
Magiciens de la Terre at the Centre Georges Pompidou, 1989 |

WEEK 7 | Monday, February 20 | Reframing Race in Exhibitions and in Institutions

WEEK 8 | Monday, February 27 | Curatorial Avant-Gardes

WEEK 9 | Monday, March 6 | Art, Experience, & the 2018 Cuenca Biennial
DUE: Writing Assignment 2

WEEK 10 | Monday, March 13 | SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11 | Monday, March 20 | Guest artist presentation

WEEK 12 | Monday, March 27 | Guest artist presentation

WEEK 13 | Monday, April 3 | RESEARCH DAY

WEEK 14 | Monday, April 10 | Guest artist presentation

WEEK 15 | Monday, April 17 | Guest artist presentation

WEEK 16 | Monday, April 24 | Final presentations

May 1, by 5pm: Final Research Paper due

LINKS & COURSE POLICIES:

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion. The intent is that we explore the content of this course in a way that is respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. The intent is also to present content that explores diverse points of view, which might be challenging. Maintaining a respectful environment will be our responsibility. The intent is that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Content notice. In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in an art history course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

Class Attendance. Attendance will be taken. Unexcused absences will adversely affect the Attendance and Participation portion of your grade as well as your performance on Assignments and Exams. Each student will be granted one documented excused absence over the course of the semester. You need to provide a note from your doctor or other appropriate individual. Among the reasons for excused absences are: Death or major illness in the immediate family; religious holiday; injury. Excuse notes should be submitted via email on the day of your absence or submitted as hard copy the day you resume 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 catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Due dates. Please take a look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays, family obligations, or extracurricular activities) that conflict with class meetings and due dates. If you do have a conflict, please contact me well in advance to clear your absence or discuss the possibility of an extension. Please request any extension in advance of the due date. Each day late for any assignment will result in a lowered 1/3 letter grade for that assignment (A to A- for example).

Zoom etiquette. In the event that a class meeting is held via zoom or arrangements are made for a student to attend via zoom, please see [Online/Zoom etiquette.](https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf)

Classroom demeanor. It is my preference that you use a paper notebook, so as to limit the distractions and the barriers between myself and you all. Thus, choose a writing notebook for taking notes during class. No talking on cell phones, ringing or beeping, texting, Facebooking, tweeting, or emailing during class. No noisy or smelly eating. Students are

expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Use of Electronic Devices. Laptop use is especially encouraged during scheduled "in class group research" and any Zoom sessions. The instructor reserves the right to ask that they be put away if they disrupt the work toward the assignment. *Cell phone use is not permitted.*

Email policy. Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@ufl.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis.

Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account and through the CANVAS e-learning site on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. Please practice email etiquette and courtesy when messaging (write a clear subject line, include a salutation and closing, address your instructor as "Professor Cabañas" or "Cabañas," etc.). For more information on email etiquette, see the guide from *Inside Higher Education*: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>

If you send me any emails, please do so using the email function within the course's CANVAS, e-learning site.

Accommodation. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course evaluations. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty:

Conduct Code. 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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the

possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask me. UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conducted related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers.

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 educational 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 delivered by any 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 presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between 6 students in the class or between a student and the faculty or 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.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
% Equivalent	93% and above	90-92%	87-89%	83-86%	80-82%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	67-69%	63-66%	60-62%	59% and below

Please note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements. See the following web page for information on UF policies for assigning grade points: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Graduate students on assistantships must keep a GPA of 3.0 and above to maintain their appointments.

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

<https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

<https://uflib.ufl.edu/>

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process

<https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>