

ART 6933 / Painting Drawing Print Graduate Seminar

Speak Back. Speak Forward

School of Art + Art History - University of Florida



Image Credit: David Shrigley

Spring 2023 / W 11:45 - 2:45 pm est / Location: Gradhaus & FAD 113 / 3 credits

Instructor: Adrian Gonzalez, Visiting Assistant Professor

gonzalezadrian@ufl.edu / Fine Arts Building C / Room 317A

Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00 pm / by appointment / In-person or Zoom (link on canvas)

Office Hours may be used for questions about class, assignments, or general conversation, processing, and reflection. No agenda or question is required to come to Office Hours. I am typically on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays. It will usually be best to meet with me via Zoom.

Course Description

Painting/Drawing/Printmaking Graduate Seminar: Speak Back. Speak Forward is an interdisciplinary course designed to explore makers and thinkers and the ways they present themselves and are seen through self awareness, conversations, arguments and counterarguments. Through writing, critique, dialogue, exhibitions, and proposals, in and out of the studio, and the most effective means, forms, and language through which they speak back and speak forward. The course acts as a platform for critically engaging with a wide range of artistic practices and their role in contemporary culture. These activities support students in locating student's particular interests and evolving artistic positions in relation to their studio and ideas.

Course Objectives

- 1) Connect to current issues, critiques, and definitions within the art world and culture at large
- 2) Survey, assess, and analyze the landscape of contemporary art practice and related fields
- 3) To write about and articulate your practice with sophistication and clarity
- 4) Claim a position in contemporary art and how your practice is situated in relation to the field
- 5) Build and employ resources that you can return and add to throughout the rest of the MFA program and your life as an artist.
- 6) To practice informed criticality with your peers
- 7) To hone your agency in the context of which you are making art

Course Structure

This seminar meets once-a-week. It serves as a time to discuss, think, and speak about the relationship between contemporary, historical and theoretical issues, in and out of academia, as they relate to building a critical dialogue and professional practice. Weekly meetings include guest lectures, readings, writing assignments, discussions, presentations, peer to peer interactions, critiques, and studio visits.

Each week a different student will present research to the class. It is the student's responsibility to review the schedule and prepare accordingly for each week's activity. All encouragement is given for students to meet and discuss assignments with each other, especially through their peer partnerships, outside of class time or during class hours when time permits.

Additionally, we will put our discussion into practice - conceiving of an exhibition, participating in a selection process for an NYC exhibition, public open studios, and participating in alternative critique methods and writing practices of your individual studio work and the work of your peers. All activity and assignments will be described in detail on Canvas.

Course Philosophy

Artists often think that they do everything for themselves and that they don't want or need the help of others— they alone should be credited for their success. Keep in mind that the art world is a small place. The people you meet in graduate school will follow you around for the rest of your life—for better or worse. The people most likely to help your career are your peers, your teachers and other artists who you meet along the way. These may be people who don't not fly the same flag, or don't appear to share your ideology. Don't hold them at arm's length. Most of the time, people want to help you. Be open. Embrace it.

Expectations

Vital to the success of this class is a collective and individual willingness to share thoughts and opinions with each other, a commitment to openness and seeing things in new ways, and to respect for diversity of opinion, beliefs, values, heritage, orientation, etc. Civility, maturity and thoughtfulness are required.

Graduate-level learning is by definition self-directed and proactive. Your final grade will be based on the entirety of your work throughout the semester—quality of research and production, technical and conceptual development, and participation. Active participation in discussions, critiques, and other group activities is mandatory. Participation, as part of your overall citizenship, is a graded component of this course. Speak up, make your thoughts known. You'll learn more from your peers than anyone else in your graduate experience.

Graduate Studio

Graduate Studio acts as a conduit between the forming of artistic intention and the work that is made; it is the when and the where of an artist's immersion in the process of research and making. Graduate Studio requires the very highest level of focus and productivity. The deeper the investigation of ideas and materials, the more productive the artistic outcome. Graduate Students are expected to be making new works to present and discuss throughout the semester.

Group Studio Visits

The foundation of the MFA experience is the production of artwork in the context of dialogue and critique within a community of peers. Group Studio Visits generate a dynamic forum for multiple voices to merge into conversation. They develop a student's ability to assess, contextualize, and discuss artworks at a professional level. It provides a space for debate, questioning, agreement, disagreement, inspiration, and discovery. During group studio visit sessions, first, second, and third-year MFA students participate in mixed groups, engaging in rigorous peer review of in progress and finished work.

Area Critique

Everyone will participate in area critiques. Faculty, students, staff, and members of the community will be invited to attend. Area Crits are an important time for dialogue about your

work and practice with people outside of your immediate circle. Please be prepared to speak about your work and practice and prepare an articulate artist statement.

Peer Partner

Each student will be paired with a peer partner: another student in the class who will act as a sounding board, proofreader, and informal consultant. Peer partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships that enhance learning and growth through ongoing dialogue. Peer partners can rely on each other for feedback on written assignments and materials as well as studio work and course problem-solving.

Individual Weekly Presentations

Each week, one or two students will present about their studio practice. The presentations can take any form, such as relevant reading discussions, a visual presentation, performance, ect. The purpose of this weekly assignment is to share what you are working with, referencing, reading in reflection to your work and how you think about it. How does your studio practice take shape with your research and how do you present and speak about it? 30-40 min presentations with discussion.

*Detailed information on presentations can be found on the course canvas page.

Daily Work and Assignments

If you do a little bit every day, you can't help but accomplish a lot. Part of making the transition to working outside the academy, is to learn how to pace yourself, make time for yourself, and get your work done without drama. Good work habits are the domain of Professional Practice.

A shared set of folders in our shared class Google Drive will be used to turn in assignments in this course. An invitation to the main Drive folder "PDP Spring 2023" will be sent at the beginning of the semester. Sub folders are created for each assignment. PDF is the preferred format for file submission. Always include your name and the assignment when naming, saving, and uploading your files.

File Name Example: gonzalez_adrian_assignment_2023.pdf

***Assignment details can be found on Canvas

Required Texts, Materials, Software, or Equipment

Required text will be provided on Canvas. Students are responsible for obtaining materials for independent projects and presentations.

Class Texts:

- How Art Can Be Taught: A Handbook for Change / Allen Desouza / Duke University Press
- The Contemporaries: Travels in the 21st Century Art World / Roger White / Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Visiting Artists Calendar / Spring 2023

Abigail Deville,

Time TBA, Tuesday, January 25th, Virtual Talk: Zoom

Sara Greenberger Rafferty

Time TBA, Tuesday, February 28th, In-Person

Cosmo Whyte

Time TBA, Tuesday, March 7th, In-Person

Course Grading Criteria

Your grade for the course is based on a holistic assessment of your engagement with the class. Grades for this course will be based on your effort and conversations in class and in the studio, reading reflections and discussions, and citizenship. You will be graded both on individual performance and in relation to your peers. You will receive a midterm and final grade. Grading will favor students who pace themselves, and don't wait until the last minute. In short, if you participate fully, are engaged in class and attend all sessions, you will receive an excellent grade. Below is a sample of how grading is calculated, but these categories are not fixed.

20%: Attendance and citizenship. Citizenship includes participation, effort, community engagement. For a full grade, participation is essential. Participation, as part of your overall citizenship, is a graded component of this course.

40%: Writing assignments and presentations

40%: Studio Work/visits and Group Conversations

Grade Values

A, A-: Superior work and effort. This grade level is for those who demonstrate and maintain strong creative concepts, intellectual curiosity, focused work ethic, and courage to push beyond safe limits. They work consistently and are engaged in outside research inherent to their studio practice facilitated by self-generated questions and critical thinking. They actively participate in critiques and seminars, and show a high level of independence, professionalism, and motivation facilitating the studio community and their education.

B+, B, B-: Very good work and effort. This grade implies above average work, participation/citizenship and demonstrates an effort beyond expectations to discover in the process of developing a solid studio practice. The B student works hard but struggles some with productivity and analysis of studio work in context; or has good conceptual goals but does not put forth substantial skill/effort to communicate them effectively. The B range student may be doing minimal outside research to develop ideas but makes use of the faculty/peer suggestions and dialogue.

C+, C: Average work and effort. This grade indicates good attendance, completion of ideas, and some extra work. Adequate time spent in the studio. The C student struggles with resolving projects in a coherent manner, or may struggle with the development of a consistent and rigorous studio practice. Their participation and initiative in critique settings and seminar is minimal, and they often fail to initiate peer and faculty feedback.

Any grade below a C is not a passing grade in the Graduate School of Art. Performance is average and requirements are not met. The student will be issued a deficiency notice or placed on probation if a grade of C or lower is issued.

Grading Scale

A 95-100, A- 94-90, B+ 87-89, B 86-84, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 60-63, E 0-59

UF final grades and grading policies info:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Communication

Students are advised to use ufl.edu email for all UF course correspondence and to check and respond regularly. It is best not to rely on canvas email, but email the instructor directly via Outlook. I usually respond within 24 hours: emails sent after 6pm Friday or over the weekend may not receive a response until Monday. For emergencies call UF Police 352.392.1111 or 911. * Canvas is where to find announcements, weekly calendar/due dates, assignment descriptions, course materials/readings, grading, and office hours/class, zoom links.

Attendance, Excused Absences and Emergencies

Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Lateness of more than 15 minutes or early departure is considered an absence (and habitual lateness of under 20 minutes will also affect your participation grade as every three times you are late counts as one absence). Participation including attendance, is 15% of your final grade, and will be reduced according to the structure below:

- 85-90% attendance = "Participation" Grade can be no higher than a "B."
- 75-85% attendance = "Participation" Grade can be no higher than a "C."
- 70% or less attendance will result in failure of the course.

For EXCUSED absences due to emergency, illness, court appearance, death in the family, or in order to observe a special religious holiday from affecting your attendance by emailing documentation of your excused absence (such as a doctor's note, or note from family) to the instructor. Regardless if an absence is excused or unexcused, you MUST be in dialogue with your instructor or a peer to keep pace with course content, and arrange for alternate participation with any team or collaborative projects. Excused absences are updated twice a semester, along with your Participation Grade.

Please see University of Florida Attendance Policies and criteria for excused absences at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance>.

Late Work Policy

Work submitted any time after the due date will be graded down one letter grade per class meeting. An assignment more than 5 days late will receive an E. No work resubmission will be accepted. Policy for make-up work assignments: If due to circumstances beyond your control: severe medical emergencies, family matters which demand your not attending class etc. I will work with you to arrive at an equitable solution for make-up and completion of the course assignments.

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, typically during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. 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/>.

Painting/Drawing/Printmaking Graduate Seminar Calendar Outline

Speak Back. Speak Forward

Week 1	W - Introduction to Seminar / 5-minute Artist/Studio introductions Studio assessment form / Peer Partners Interdisciplinarity + Artistic Research + The Academy
Week 2	W - Artist Agency / Legitimacy / Introduce class exhibition: Salon Rapid Fire Studio Visits
Week 3	W - Abigail Deville Class Visit (Virtual): Topic TBD Students Research Abigail's Work Prior to Tuesday Lecture The Studio, Artifacts, & Logistics / Resulting in: Catalogue of Existing Works
Week 4	W - Writing Center Visit and discussion How Art is Thought, Spoken, Written Rapid Fire Studio Visits
Week 5	W - Salon Exhibition / Feb 10th - 16th Gallery Talks / Discussion with Gallery
Week 6	W - Zoom Visiting Artist / Responding in the in the Form of Art Rapid Fire Studio Visits
Week 7	W - Group Midterms at Gradhaus
Week 8	W - Group Midterms at Fine Arts Building C
Week 9	W - Apexart Class Jurying: Discussion

Week 10	M - F Spring Break - NO CLASS
Week 11	W - The Studio & Engaging Community / Open Studios
Week 12	W - The Museum Context + Institutional Critique
Week 13	T - 7pm Area Crits (Tentative Date & Time) W - Professional Practices: Writing for exhibition proposals / cover letters CVs and resumes / teaching and grant applications.
Week 14	T - 7pm Area Crits (Tentative Date & Time) W - A Single Sentence Statement Presentations and Discussion
Week 15	W - Manifestos
Week 16	W - Manifestos

Other Important Dates

Reading days	Apr 27 & 28
Finals Week	Apr 29 - May 5

MFA I Exhibition March 24 - April 7, 2023
MFA II Exhibition April 14 - 28, 2023
Gary R. Libby University Gallery and Gary R. Libby Focus Gallery

UNIVERSITY COVID-19 INFORMATION

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> UF guidance:
<https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/health-guidance/> ·

At the University of Florida, caring for yourself and others is the cornerstone of our campus community. We expect students, faculty and staff to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health guidance to protect their health and support the safety of everyone. We encourage you to monitor your health and if you feel ill, take steps to minimize interactions with others. Visit the UF Health site <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org> for additional information. ·

Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Continue to regularly visit <http://coronavirus.UFHealth.org> and <http://coronavirus.ufl.edu> for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and guidance on health and wellness.

Disability Resource Center

Having a disability is not a barrier to making phenomenal art: but we do need to know what you are negotiating to properly support your process. If you have any limitations or documented learning disabilities, please let us know immediately. This includes language limitations, physical illness, limitations or disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as chronic disease, learning disabilities, head injuries or diagnosed attention deficit disorders—we want to help make this class a positive experience for you from the beginning. Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of

Students Office, Disability Resource Center (352) 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ The student will receive documentation to present to the professor. Please upload your DRC memo to the course Canvas as soon as possible.

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.

UF Policies

UF Philosophy

UF 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 Policy

As a result of completing the registration form at UF, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic endeavors and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies dishonest behaviors and possible sanctions.

Understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. Please adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including, expulsion from the University. As artists, we might work in a style commonly known as "appropriation," but it is common courtesy to cite your sources, even when working in a non-written form. Include the names and artwork titles of any work you cite in your projects.

Disruptive Behavior

Any member of the UF community who acts intentionally 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 will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The School of Art + Art History Health and Safety Policy handbook provides policy and training for health and safety. Students must follow handbook policies, receive proper training, and sign the signature page, no later than the third class meeting. Please make yourself familiar with the SA+AH Health and Safety Program at:

<https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saahhealthandsafetyhandbook.pdf>

Campus 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.

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.

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.

University Police Department:

Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

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.

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.

E-learning technical support:

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

Career Connections Center:

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

Library Support:

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

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

Writing Studio:

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

Student Complaints On-Campus:

Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints:

View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

Disclaimer:

With Notice, the instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.