

ART3807 Interdisciplinary Studio  
The Return of the Unreal  
Spring 2025, Syllabus

Monday/ Wednesday, 11.45am–2.45pm (periods 5–7)  
Fine Arts Building D, Room 329

Instructor: Anthea Behm

Pronouns: she/her

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Office hours: Mondays 9.30–10.25am; Wednesdays 10.30–11.25am

Also on zoom with appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Course Description**

In this experimental photography course, students will engage processes of the digital and the darkroom, including AI generated images and black and white chemical processing. The histories and theories relating to these photographic processes will be explored through the topic of The Return of the Unreal. Through seminar style format, students will discuss readings alongside the work of contemporary artists and explore the cultural production of art and its relationship to ideas such as the magic, ritual, mysticism, and the construction of myth including conspiracy theories. Students will also engage with these issues in their own art making through a series of studio assignments that responds to the work of contemporary artist, the readings, and their own research. These studio assignments will be viewed and discussed during group critiques and individual meetings.

## **Course Objectives & Goals**

The goal of this course is to develop critical thinking and the skills to create and speak about issues concerning current art production and related contemporary art and culture. Students will engage a wide range of art historians, theorists, and artists through researching and presenting on the work of contemporary artists, reading assignments, and reading group presentations. Students will investigate formal and conceptual questions raised during their reading and research through a number of studio-based projects. This will provide students with a framework for connecting research to the development of their own art practice. To further facilitate this, students will undertake a self-directed project that will be developed through individual meetings with the instructor. For the studio assignments, students are expected to explore new ways to work and experiment in their projects, and to present formally and conceptually rigorous work. An introduction to professional practice, including independent research and developing artists statements, will also form a component of the course.

### **Open Lab & Individual Meetings**

Individual meetings will be scheduled throughout the semester. During these meetings students will present their research and work in progress. To facilitate a discussion of their ideas, students must show images/ objects/ sketches, etc. of their research. During these meetings students will also discuss their plans and timeline for work. If these plans or ideas change, students must inform the instructor either through email or in person for approval.

For Open Lab, students must come to class prepared to work on class assignments. This includes all the necessary materials and equipment. If students need to work on their assignments outside of the area during Open Lab, they must communicate this with the instructor, either through email or in person, for approval. Failure to follow this procedure may effect the project grade.

### **Assessment**

Students taking this course will be evaluated through two elements:

(1) **Studio Assignments** [45% of grade]

Students studio assignments will be graded according to the level of engagement with the critical and conceptual goals of the assignment. Consistency of work, research efforts, and response to feedback will also be highly considered.

(2) **Writing & Professional Practice Assignments** [15% of final grade]

This component will be graded on criteria for student presentations, level of engagement in the workshops, as well as effort and development over the course of the semester.

(3) **Participation** [40% of final grade]

Participation will be graded according to successful completion of reading assignments, input during seminar discussions and group critiques.

Please see assignment sheet for detailed information on assignments. Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each day they are past due. Please note, to receive your final grade you must upload a Portfolio of work completed for all assignments (including written, and documentation of studio work) on the Google drive no later than 5.00pm on Friday, April 25, 2025. Please save videos as compressed .MOV (less than 250 MB) and

images as high quality .JPG (less than 10 MB).

## **Required Reading**

Readings will be provided to students as PDFs. There are no required textbooks for this class.

## **Grading + Evaluation**

This course includes the following assignments that you will be graded on:

Studio Assignments [45% of final grade]

Writing + Professional Practice Assignments [15% of final grade]

Participation [40% of final grade]

Your work will be graded on specific criteria defined by individual project goals. However, all projects will be graded on their success in the following areas: development, design making, risk-taking, experimentation, ambition, and meeting deadlines. Participation includes arriving ready to work, on time, with materials, keeping studio clean, device use, respectful behavior, and participation in critiques and discussions.

The course grade for each student will be evaluated based on:

- The completion and success of a series of projects
- Completion of readings, writings, and discussions
- Presentation - all work should be presented in critique in a finished and professional manner
- Effort, hard work, and a diligent, consistent effort toward excellence
- Active participation and discussion
- Attendance

## **Grading Criteria**

A: This grade is awarded for exceptional work that demonstrates critical thinking, a full realization of the ideas put forth in assignment, and outstanding engagement of both form and content; excellent amount of effort given to the class and assignments, with minimum lateness and absences; going beyond the basic course requirements through independent work and research; display a strong commitment to learning, being an active member of the class community, and growth as an artist and student.

B: This grade will be awarded for very good work that demonstrates a sound and competent

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realization of the ideas put forth in each assignment; excels in many areas but lacks one or more of the outstanding characteristics listed above.

C: This grade will be awarded for well-presented, average work that demonstrates a fairly good attempt at grasping the expectations of each given assignment. This work lacks a competent, comprehensive understanding mentioned in 'B' above.

D: This grade is awarded for inadequate work, extremely poor and/or half-finished work with no care or attention to the assignment. In addition, when someone has missed three or more classes, has failed to complete one or more assignments, or keep up to date with the studio-based syllabus.

E: When someone stops coming to class and stops communicating with instructor. This is a severe grade and is usually given in severe circumstances.

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Weekly Schedule**

Week	Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction + Syllabus	Student Presentations
Week 2	The Contemporary field	Artist research assignment presentations Technical demo
Week 3	The Contemporary field	Artist research assignment presentations, contin. Technical demo
Week 4	Breaking w Illusion & Aura	Project 1 Critique Reading seminar + discussion Project 2 intro Technical demo
Week 5	Photography & the Occult	Reading seminar + discussion
Week 6	Magic	Project 1 Critique Reading seminar + discussion
Week 7	Witches + Feminism	Reading seminar + discussion

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		Technical demo
Week 8	Project Proposals	Project Proposals
Week 9	Astrology + Colonialism	Reading seminar + discussion Field trip: studio darkroom
Week 10	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 11	Work in Progress Critique	Work in Progress Critique
Week 12	Magical Thinking + Conspiracy	Reading seminar + discussion Individual meetings
Week 13	Posts–modernism + truth	Reading seminar + discussion
Week 14	Final Critique	Final Critique
Week 15	Artist Statements	Writing Workshop

### **Class Attendance**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Students are required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving on time and with all materials necessary to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving without assigned materials may be counted absent on that date. Three unexcused late arrivals may be recorded as one absence. At the discretion of the instructor, students who have more than three unexcused absences may receive a failing grade for the course. Additionally, a student's grade may be effected if they have unexcused absences or do not present work on their designated critique day. Excused absences require documentation such as a doctor's note. In the case of an absence, students are asked to communicate this via email and in advance of class unless extenuating circumstances prohibit doing so. Make up work will be made available for all students who have excused absences.

### **Health and Safety**

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Each student must complete a Health and Safety Student Waiver for this course. These forms will be turned in to the School of Art office. <http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/>

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Class Demeanor Policy**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

### **Academic Honesty**

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Online 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/>.

### **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 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.

### **Campus Resources // Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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).

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*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.

### **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](mailto: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.](#)