

Why Look at Animals?

(ARH4930/ ARH 6918: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Non-Western Art)



Mary Sibande, *Let Slip the Dogs of War*, 2015.



Kiluanji Kia Henda, *In the Days of a Dark Safari #3*, 2017.

Mondays | Period 10-11 - 5:10 PM – 7:05 PM
Wednesdays | Period 11 – 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM

Location: FAC 201

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: ARH 2050 or ARH 2051 or instructor's permission.

Instructor: Dr. Álvaro Luís Lima

Contact: lima@ufl.edu or (352)294-0556 (e-mail preferred)

Office Hours: FAC 121 Wednesdays | Period 6: 12:50 PM – 1:40 PM and by appointment

Course Canvas Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/526523>

Course Description: In 1977, John Berger raised a question that titled his famous essay “Why Look at Animals?” to which he concluded that “the look between animal and man... has been extinguished.” Twenty years later, Jacques Derrida is caught by surprise when he meets the gaze of his cat, an eye-to-eye encounter that led him to challenge what he saw as a blind spot in Western ontology. What did he see when staring his cat in the eye? This course will focus on the ways we look at animals and how we have responded when they look back. We will examine the place of animals in art, visual culture, and the politics of representation of human and nonhuman animal relations. Classes will be organized by the different contexts from which we see animals: the zoo, the movie theater, the art gallery, the academy, and more. The course places special emphasis on non-Western case studies and the postcolonial, sexual, and racial discourses shaping our relationship to nonhuman animals. Non-art and art history majors are welcomed.

Course Objectives:

- Situate contemporary art and visual culture within major philosophical debates on human-nonhuman animal difference through class discussion.
- Examine Animal Studies methodologies and their significance to contemporary artistic practice through close reading in class.
- Develop critical engagement with essential concepts in Animal Studies and their application to the analysis of works of art through terminology quizzes.
- Critically analyze the racial, sexual, and colonial histories of animal representation in artworks and films through weekly assigned films and class discussions.
- Qualify the visual and discursive politics towards animals under diverse media and institutional contexts through cross-disciplinary readings.
- Enhance oral argumentation skills through participation in discussion-centered classes and oral examination.
- Nuance visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through writing assignments.

Readings and films: Readings and will be accessible on Course Reserves or Canvas with the exception of the following required and recommended texts that can be purchased or borrowed from the library:

- Required: (1) Coetzee, J. M. *The Lives of Animals*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016. (2) Machado, Samuel and Cynthia Sousa Machado with Steve Wise, *Thing: Inside the Struggle for Animal Personhood*. Covelo, CA: Island Press, 2023.
- Recommended: (1) Coe, Sue and Stephen F. Eisenman, *Zoocide: Seeing Cruelty, Demanding Abolition*. Chico CA: AK Press, 2018. (2) Gruen, Lori (ed.). *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018. (3) Anonymous, *Beasts of Burden: Capitalism, Animals, and Communism*. Croatia: Active Distribution, 2019.

- Films: Films will be available on Canvas or the Fine Art Library's Course Reserves. Please check in advance and plan accordingly to ensure that you watch all required films in advance of class discussions. Students may use paid streaming services to watch films from their personal devices at their discretion.

Requirements and Grading

Assessments:

Standard track

- 10%, Attendance and Participation (throughout the semester)
For a full grade in this section, participation in class is essential, including making comments, asking questions, and an active engagement with reading material during class discussion. Please notice that full attendance without ongoing participation will result in a B- for this grade component.
- 30% Critical Terminology Quiz 1 & 2 (15% each, 2/11 and 3/24)
Students are expected to define and critically discuss key concepts from a list distributed in advance of each quiz.
- 30%, Oral Exam with Instructor (beginning on 3/10)
Students will schedule a meeting with instructor during office hours where they will be asked questions related to any content covered in the course (15-20 minutes).
- 30% Take-Home Writing Assignment (due on 4/30)
Students will write an essay in response to a question distributed by the instructor.

Research track - Required for art history graduate students. Others please inquiry*

- 10%, Attendance and Participation (throughout the semester)
For a full grade in this section, participation in class is essential, including making comments, asking questions, and an active engagement with reading material during class discussion. Please notice that full attendance without ongoing participation will result in a B- for this grade component.
- 30% Critical Terminology Quiz 1 & 2 (15% each, 2/11 and 3/24)
Students are expected to define and critically discuss key concepts from a list distributed in advance of each quiz.
- 20% Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (due on 3/10)
Based on preliminary research with authoritative academic sources, students will write a paper proposal (no more than a page, double space). The proposal will be accompanied by an annotated bibliography of a minimal of five sources and a brief explanation of how the source will be helpful to the research (sources assigned by the course cannot be used for the annotated bibliography).
- 40%: Research paper (due on 4/30)
Student will write a paper based on their own research of a topic agreed upon in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be a minimum of ten pages of text, in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and follow the Chicago style citation guide.

***MFA students:** MFA students have the option to submit documentation of studio research expanding on content related to the themes of the course, complete with an artist's statement. Any

material created or done on assignment for another course will not count. Graduate students must discuss their final projects with the instructor in advance. Further details will be discussed in class.

Submission of Assignments: All written assignments should be submitted through Canvas. Delays may incur in a grade penalty. Written assignments must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins when applicable. Any citations should follow The Chicago Manual of Style. Further details on all assignments and exams will be provided during the semester.

Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html Please consult the Writing Studio with any questions about proper citations and paper formatting.

Please note:

- Completion of all assignments is necessary to pass the course.
- 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	93 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 92	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

Course Instructions and Policies

Attendance: In-person attendance to all classes is expected. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation such as a doctor's note.

No Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices, including computers, will not be allowed during class, unless required by DRC. Assigned readings should be printed and brought to the class for consultation. Class notes can be taken by hand.

Electronic Communication: Announcements about the class may be sent by e-mail, so please check it regularly. All electronic communication should be made through your official UF account. I will answer your e-mails as quickly as I can, but please allow forty-eight hours for responses.

Plagiarism and Other Malpractices: UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the Honor Code, and student conduct related to the Honor Code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For more information on the Honor Code, see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. Please notice that the use of AI technologies to complete any assignments for this course is strictly forbidden. If you have any questions or concerns on this, please feel free to speak to me.

For Students with Disabilities: If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability you should first register with the Disability Resource Center [(352) 392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>] by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Diversity Statement: This course is committed to respecting difference, including of ability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. As part of this effort, the intent is to present content that explores diverse points of view. As a class, we should strive to create an atmosphere in which students from all backgrounds and perspectives will be well-served by the course, and different backgrounds and perspectives will be used as a resource, strength, and benefit. It will be both my responsibility and yours to accomplish these goals. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Faculty Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Academy

- **Note: 1/20 - No Class, Martin Luther King Day**

Week 3: Academy II

Week 4: Face-to-Face

Week 5: Gallery

- 2/11 - Critical Terminology Quiz I

Week 6: Wilderness

Week 7: Zoo

Week 8: Factory

Week 9: Movie Theater

- 3/10 - Standard Track: Oral Exams Begin/Research Track: Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 10: **No Class, Spring Break**

Week 11: Lab

- 3/24 - Critical Terminology Quiz II

Week 12: Streets

Week 13: Dining Table

Week 14: Gallery II

Week 15: Home

- 4/30 – Standard Track: Take-Home Assignment Due/Research Track: Research Paper Due

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness:

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact “U Matter, We Care” so that a team member can reach out to the student. Email: umatter@ufl.edu. Phone: (352)392-1575. Website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Address: 3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL 32611 Phone: (352)392-1575. Website: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), at the Student Health Care Center: Phone: (352)392-1161. Website: http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual_violence.

Academic:

- The Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall and 339 Library West, offers help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers, as well as online tutoring. Phone: (352)846-1138. Website: <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- E-learning Technical Support: Email: learningsupport@ufl.edu. Phone: (352)392-4357 (select option 2). Website: <https://news.it.ufl.edu/education/tech-support-for-you-how-can-we-help/>.
- Library Support, for assistance in using the libraries and finding resources. Phone: (352)273-2805. Website: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/contact-us/>.
- Teaching Center, SW Broward Hall, for tutoring and strengthening study skills. Email: teaching-center@ufl.edu. Phone: (352)392-6420. Website: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
- Harn Museum of Art, 3259 Hull Road, excellent collection on campus with more than 10,000 works of art; offers free student memberships that include admission to 75+ museums nationwide, invitations to museum events, and more. Email: membership@ufl.edu. Phone: (352)392-9826. Website: <http://harn.ufl.edu/>.