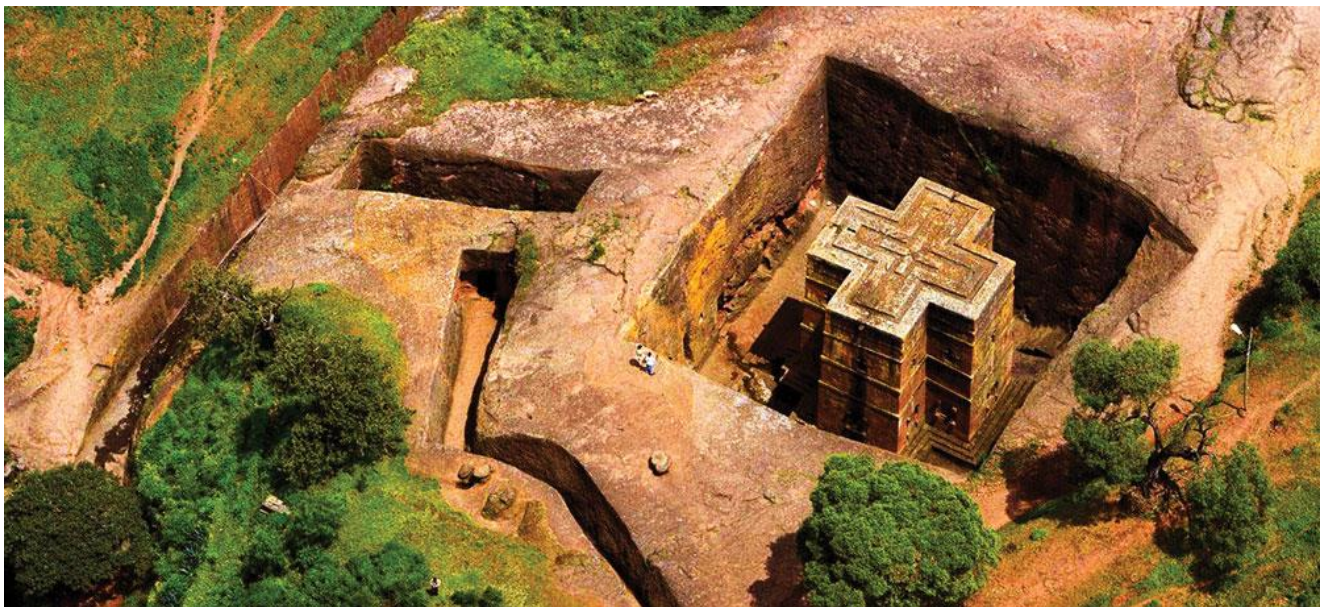


Introduction to African Art
(ARH 2510)



Tabita Rezaire, *Deep Down Tidal* (still), 2017.



Church of Saint George, Lalibela, Ethiopia, 13th century.

Mondays | Period 8: 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM
Wednesdays | Period 8 and 9: 3:00 - 4:55 PM

Location: FAC 201
Credits: 3
Prerequisite: None

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/530564>

Course Description: This course introduces African art by highlighting its diversity and complexity. It examines historical and methodological questions to contextualize works of art from across the continent ranging from as early as Ancient Egypt, seen in the eyes of Cheikh Anta Diop, to the Afrofuturism of contemporary artists such as Tabita Rezaire. The course is organized in four parts to situate the broad scope of content. Part one questions what constitutes an African identity. Part two considers the location of Africa by looking at the way in which diasporic cultures, North Africa, and Europe, have been essential to the history of African art. Part three shows the role of African art traditions beyond the museum. The course concludes with part four, which looks at modern and contemporary liberation struggles and their aftermath. Non-majors are welcome.

Course Objectives:

- Familiarity with foundational methodology of African art history through class readings, discussion, and writing assignments.
- Attribute major artistic traditions to geographical regions of Africa through quiz and class lectures.
- Expand skills to interpret African art objects from diverse cultural backgrounds and functions by class discussion, and readings.
- Develop oral presentation and research skills by delivering a presentation on an art object.
- Expand visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through short writing assignments.

Required Readings: Required readings will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and should be done in preparation for classes. Please, bring a hard copy of the reading to class to allow optimal participation. Input in class discussion of the readings will be an essential part of the participation grade.

Optional Readings: A selection of relevant books have been placed on course reserves at the Architecture & Fine Arts Library and can be consulted to complement required readings.

Requirements and Grading

Assessments:

- 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.
- 10%: African nations map quiz (1/19)
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.

- 10%: African cities quiz (9/12)
Students will have to name a selection of major cities and identify their countries.
- 10% Critical Terminology Quiz (3/24)
Students are expected to define and critically discuss key concepts from a list distributed in advance of the quiz.
- 30%, Oral Exam with Instructor (beginning on 3/3)
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.

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:

Part I: Who?

1/13: Introduction

1/15: Problems Defining African Art

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

1/22: Authenticity

1/27: Hybridity

1/29: Négritude

2/3: Négritude II

2/5 Queerness

2/10: Queerness II

Part II: Where?

2/12: Primitivism

2/17: Primitivism II

2/19: Orientalism

2/24: Diaspora

2/26: Media Primitivism

3/3: Mami Wata

3/5: Yoruba

Part III: What?

3/10: Yoruba II

3/12: Ethiopia

3/17: **No Class, Spring Break**

3/19: **No Class, Spring Break**

3/24: Kongo

3/26: Kongo II

3/31: Benin

4/2: Ilé-Ife

4/7: Adobe Architecture

4/9: Baule

Part IV: When?

4/14: Malian Photography

4/16: Postcolonial Modernism

4/21: Resistance against Apartheid

4/23: Afrofuturism

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/>.