
MUSEUM STUDIES

Critical Museum Praxis

ARH 6900 — Spring 2026

Thursday, 11:40am-2:40pm

FAC 116A

Professor:

Dr. Jacque Micieli-Voutsinas

(Please feel free to call me Dr. MV)

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Phone: 352-273-3062

Fine Arts Building C (Room 119A)

Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm, or by appointment. Office hours will be held both in person and remotely via Zoom

Course description:

This course is an elective course offering within the Museum Studies graduate curriculum. It aims to introduce and familiarize students with current and emerging practices in new museology that center around transdisciplinary museum praxis and discourse and contemporary developments in exhibition design.

Course objectives:

- (1) Students will gain a general understanding of conceptual frameworks that guide contemporary museum practices and discourses.
- (2) Develop and improve graduate students' ability to think, evaluate, and enact critical museum praxis.

- (3) Engage students in transdisciplinary thinking and dialogue about the role museums as sites of community well-being.
- (4) Engage students in dialogue with local museums and/or museum professionals.

Course texts:

Required

1. Cherry, Myisha. (2023). *Failures of Forgiveness: What we get wrong and How to do Better*. Princeton University Press.
2. Kaur, Valarie. (2021). *See No Stranger: a Memoir and Manifesto of Love*.

All other course readings will be available electronically through Canvas on our course site under “Course Readings.” To access the course site, go to: elearning.ufl.edu

Course evaluation: ARH 6900 is designed to introduce you to the conceptual frameworks and processes that guide contemporary museum practices. Course evaluation will reflect this focus and will include a mixture of written and creative assignments, including: participation in mindfulness and wellness-based activities, critical reading reflection journal entries, implementation, management, and design of creative projects, and participation in in-class discussions. A plus/minus grading system will be used.

Mandatory in-Class Participation & Attendance	20%
Grant Application (Due: 2/6)	10%
Supplemental Exhibition Pamphlet (Due in April)	15%
Weekly Project Leadership & Assignment Completion	30%
Critical Reading Reflections (8 entries out of 13 weeks)	25%

Grading Scale:

A	93.4 – 100	B+	86.7 – 89.9	C+	76.7 – 79.9	D+	66.7 – 69.9
A-	90 – 93.3	B	83.4 – 86.6	C	73.4 – 76.6	D	63.4 – 66.6

- an ‘A’ denotes work that is exceptional, as represented by thorough and detailed engagement with ideas from course readings and lectures; careful integration of materials or concepts across themes or topics; logical reasoning; sincere reflection; and precise writing.
- a ‘B’ denotes work that is above average in relationship to your peers’ work and in relationship to the expectations of the assignment.
- a ‘C’ denotes work that fulfills course requirements in every way, but only adequately.
- a ‘D’ denotes work that does not adequately fulfill course requirements, but still deserves credit.
- an ‘F’ denotes work that does not deserve passing credit.
- a **ZERO** will be assigned to work not turned in. No late assignments, and, as stated previously, plagiarism will result in an “F” for the entire course and you will be reported to

the Academic Integrity office for violating university and course policy.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies.](#)

For all UF-related syllabi policies, please visit: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Attendance, in-class participation (20%): Your participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

1. This course is a seminar, or discussion-based and attendance is **MANDATORY**. You will be expected to participate fully in classroom discussions. In a seminar course students do assigned reading and then, under your own guidance and direction—as well as the guidance of the Professor—we will grapple aloud with the ideas we’ve read, collectively. Our seminar will be a mixture of discussion, mini-lectures, large and small group activities, with an emphasis on understanding course readings. Lectures will not be posted, and discussions and activities completed in class will not be recreated, so attending class is the only place to learn key material on which you will be evaluated. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, including any assignments or announcements that were made. The course may also require mandatory attendance at local museum or public heritage sites, in-person when permitted, or online, if not permissible. All course handouts and materials are available on the course’s elearning page.

Only 1 absence will be excused over the course of the term unless you can provide documentation for a health emergency. However, more than two absences may result in failing the course in addition to lowering your overall course grade. Excessive tardiness will also impact final class averages. Attendance is worth 10 percent of your course grade.

2. **Participation in class.** Participation includes contributing to in-class discussions by **SPEAKING** and being intellectually present for each meeting of ARH 6900. When you are not speaking or asking a question, you should be actively **LISTENING**, which may even include note taking. Meaningful contributions to class discussion should reflect **your engagement with the assigned course readings and in-class peer conversation**. Not participating in classroom discussions will result in a lower course grade. Participation is worth 10 percent of the course grade.
3. **General in-class preparedness.** Students are expected to bring the assigned readings to class and to complete all assigned readings prior to attending class. TV, cell phones, music, and other electronic distractions, are not permitted to be out during class time.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)

UF Religious Observances Policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaytext> For University of Florida Students, the following guidelines apply: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

Critical Reading Reflections (25%): Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to submit critical reading reflections for **8 separate** weeks of your choosing (8 entries out of 13 weeks). Reflections should expand upon the weekly reading theme, teasing out connections to your experiences working within the community and/or your own life history and experiences. These are not formal papers, but rather a place to process course ideas creatively, and self-reflexively, in order to understand and 'sit with' your own personal growth. Each entry should be approximately 3 pages in length. I will be collecting your reflections at the end of the term, but they will NOT be read for content. Rather, I document the appropriate number of entries and approximate pages. Reflections can be returned to students upon request.

Possible Questions to Ask yourself:

- What idea(s) from the reading do I find to be really impactful?
- Do I identify with this theme(s) in relation to our coursework?
- How do readings speak to/connect with, or diverge from my own personal experiences and why is it important for me to understand this as a heritage practitioner?
- How do I think about engaging with these ideas in community?

All accompanying written materials should be double-spaced with 12-point font, 1" margins; please follow APA, MLA, or Chicago for citations. Full credit will not be given to written work that does not meet minimum length requirements or fail to properly cite. All reading reflections are due 5/2 at Noon.

In general, about written assignments: Because improving your writing skills is an important goal of the course, your grades for these assignments will emphasize this objective. Written assignments must have a clear objective and thesis statement, supported throughout by source-specific evidence (in other words, engage directly with your assigned course readings), and a clearly organized order of discussion and reading flow. Please feel free to stop in for office hours, or make an appointment, to meet with me to discuss any problems or questions that you might have about the assignment or readings. I also encourage you to utilize the services of the <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>. For your own protection, please make certain that you continuously save your written work as you write and back up those documents on a flash drive or external hard drive. You should also save all graded work until you receive your final grade in the course. In the event that work goes missing or a grade gets miscalculated, this will provide the *only acceptable* evidence that you turned in a particular assignment or received a particular grade.

Policy on late submissions: Unless you have provided substantial, documented evidence for need of an extension, and have discussed the situation with me well in advance of the impending deadline, late assignments will receive a 5% reduction in your grade for **each day** that exceeds the stated assignment deadline. Extensions will be given only under certain circumstances, and I do not except late work after one week past the original deadline. Malfunctioning computers, printers and so on

are not reasonable grounds for an extension. Save your work regularly and in multiple locations and be prepared to print your work in a computer lab if necessary. Please note that I will be the sole judge of what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance, that in most cases my granting of an extension will require that you submit a note from a doctor or other appropriate official, and that extensions must be negotiated in advance. Please also note that sending me an email does not constitute negotiating an extension. Unless we have spoken and agreed on a new date, the original date stands.

How to reach the Instructor: E-mail is the best way to reach me, jmicielivoutsina@ufl.edu

In communicating with me, please note the following tips:

1. I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24-48 hours, 9:00 am—4:00 pm, Monday—Friday. Outside of those times, I am unavailable. Please think ahead when working on assignments.

Letters of Recommendation: If you would like a letter of recommendation you should work throughout the semester to distinguish yourself so that there is evidence of your excellence. In addition, help me help you.

- Ask for the letter a minimum of ONE MONTH in advance of the deadline
- Include information on the job, internship, academic opportunity, etc. that you are applying for
- Include your CV and achievements that you would like highlighted in the letter (2-3 sentences)
- Clearly state the deadline and where/how the letter should be submitted
- Gentle reminders leading up to the deadline are greatly appreciated

Student Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site](#). 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.

Course evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes plagiarizing, cheating, turning in counterfeit papers, stealing academic materials, knowingly falsifying academic documents, accessing confidential academic records without authorization, disclosing confidential academic information without authorization, and turning in the same work to more than one class without the expressed permission of the instructors involved. An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers. Please note that recording class discussions will not be permitted under any circumstances. Students are, however, allowed to record video or audio of class ***lectures only***, but please note that 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.¹ In ARH 6900, all of the above are prohibited. Any student deemed to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action from the University and will also receive a “no credit” (i.e., a zero) for the assignment.

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 (<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. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#)

¹ 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 an 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 presentation 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 guest 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.

Software Use: All faculty, staff, and students at the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Additional Academic Resources:

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

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

[Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352- 392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).

UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Health and Wellness:

UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 or visit the 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.

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.

Basic Security Needs: Any student who is facing challenges securing food or housing is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly for additional assistance in the event that these external stressors are also affecting your performance in the course.

Mindfulness/Wellness: Over the course of the semester, you will be exposed to difficult topics. I therefore asked to seek out and participate in seven different forms of wellness and self-care. You will be highly encouraged to take up and develop a wellness practice in the following forms:

- yoga movement (online or in person)
- meditation/breath work
- talk therapy
- massage therapy
- sauna/infrared sauna
- acupuncture
- chiropractic
- walking/hiking in nature (e.g. forest bathing, alone or with a friend)
- any other form of movement-based expression (dance, Tai-Chi, etc.)
- singing (with others or alone, online or in person)
- ASMR
- spiritual practice (student determined)
- reiki
- astrology
- physic/intuitive reading
- connection with others (laughter, talking, spending time with your chosen people)

For your convenience, I have provided a list of local or online resources for your consideration; you may repeat two of your selected activities for full credit (see attached Appendix).

Course Outline (*subject to revision*)

Date	Lecture	Discussion
Week 1 Thurs. 1/15	Introduction to Course:	(1)
Week 2 Thurs. 1/22	On Power	(2)
Week 3 Thurs. 1/29	On Trauma	(3)
Week 4 Thurs. 2/5	On Place	(4)
Week 5 Thurs. 2/12	On Truth	(5)

Week 6 Thurs. 2/19	On Reconciliation	(6)
Week 7 Thurs. 2/26	On Reparations	(7)
Week 8 Thurs. 3/5	On Forgiveness	(8)
Week 9 Thurs. 3/12	On Belonging	(9)
Week 10 Thurs. 3/19	Spring Break	(10)
Week 11 Thurs. 3/26	On (Conflict-)Resolution?	(11)
Week 12 Thurs. 4/2	On Conflict(-Resolution)?	(12)

Week 13 Thurs. 4/9	On Resistance	(13)
Week 14 Thurs. 4/16	On Love	(14)
Week 15 Thurs. 4/23	Reading Day ~ Reading Reflections Due to Professor MV by Noon on 4/30, via email	(15)

Local Healthcare Resources Appendix

Talk Therapy

- **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/services/individual/>

- Better Help

https://www.betterhelp.com/get-started/?skip_redirect_question=1

Somatic Therapy

- Yoga with Adrienne

<https://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene>

<https://yogawithadriene.com/free-yoga-videos/>

- Underbelly Yoga with Jessamyn Stanley

<https://theunderbelly.com/classes/>

- Wildflower Yoga

<https://www.wildflowersyoga.com>

- Massage Therapy at UF

<https://recsports.ufl.edu/fitness/massage-therapy/>

Mindfulness

- Yoga Girl Daily Podcast (Wednesday Meditations)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/yoga-girl-daily/id1475244555>

- Organically Jamie (Kirtan Kriya Meditation, third video down)

<https://organicallyjamie.com/thoughts-meditations-rituals/kirtan-kriya>

- Headspace (on Netflix)

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81280926>

- Erin Stutland (the Movement)

<https://erinstutland.com/the-movement/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ESTutland/videos/heres-a-short-mantra-powered-calming-movement-sequence-for-you-because-i-think-w/194729651815515/>

- The Class (14-day free trial)

<https://www.theclass.com>

- UF Rec Center classes

<https://recsports.ufl.edu/classes/>