

ART & THEORY (ART 3892) - Spring 2026

Credits: 3

Meeting Time: W, 2-4

Room: FAC306

Faculty: Dr. Craig Smith (Office Hours M, Periods 8 & 9 by Appointment)

Course Description:

This course offers students the opportunity to engage the modelling of theoretical concepts through art practice. Students will consider a selection of artists and read on three key topics: Space, Time, and Interactivity. Each of these topics will include weekly breakdowns into sub-topics. These are listed on the course schedule. Associated readings, reviews of time-based media, and the creation of weekly project depictions based on the readings and media will all be included as a part of the experience with art and theoretical modelling. This is a class about using theory and the language of critically informed concepts to help your art practice become more dynamic and engaging to broader and more global audiences.

Textbooks:

All required readings have been provided by the instructor and are uploaded to the course canvas page.

Content Warning:

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a studio art or humanities course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

Class Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

- **Students must be present, in-class, for all advising sessions, work in progress reviews, and assigned presentations.**
- **No makeup work or dates will be offered unless supported by documentation approved by the Dean of Students office.**
- **No points will be awarded for any missed work or events without such documentation.**
- **Students must be present and in-person to receive points for any day's scheduled, graded element.**
- **Students must be present (in-class) for all graded events to receive credit.**
- **Students must be present in-class to receive the points assigned to the work due on the date of class.**

Grading:

Grades will be based on the on-time upload of weekly documents, and participation in the class meeting discussing the week's readings, media, and student documents.

- Weekly In-Class Presentations of uploaded materials. (100%)

Please see attendance criteria above regarding grading and absences.

A gradebook is available on the course canvas page. It will be updated weekly for your review.

All grading will follow the UF grading guidelines available here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

GRADING SCALE: A 94-100 4.0/ A- 90-93 3.67/ B+ 87-89 3.33/ B 83-86 3.0/ B- 80-82 2.67/ C+ 77-79 2.33/ C 73-76 2.0/ C- 70-72 1.67/D+ 67-69 1.33/ D 63-66 1.0/ D- 60-62 .67/ E 0-59

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). 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.

Student Resources Provided by UF: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

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.

Schedule and Weekly Assignment

Shared Readings and Links to Various Art Media are made available weekly via Canvas.

Use the readings and links to create a document (powerpoint, pdf, keynote, time-based media piece) weekly to share in class. Demonstrate that you have engaged with the weekly materials by proposing an artwork in any media that responds to the key elements of each week's readings and media. Your powerpoint is like a project proposal, and the project you propose is new each week and clearly depicts your active engagement with the readings and media being reviewed that week.

Upload your document to your UF G Drive Folder by midnight **each Tuesday prior to the Wednesday class meeting**. Please only use your UF G Drive for your submissions.

Week 1: (No Grade)

Course Introductions

Space

Week 2: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Occupied Space –

Alorra & Calzadilla (*Clamor*), Vito Acconci (*Claim Exerpts*)

Week 3: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Site-Specificity –

Casagrande (*Bombing of Poems*), Walter de Maria (*Lightning Field*)

Week 4: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Location-Based Identity –

BikVanderPol (*Sleep With Me*), Thomas Hirschorn (*Bataille Monument*)

Week 5: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Spaces of Encounter –

Mattes (*NikePlatz*), Rachel Whiteread (*Dancing in Peckham*)

Time

Week 6: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Tempo and Repetition –

Bruce Nauman (*Perimeter of a Square*), Dan Graham (*PS/2A*)

Week 7: (Graded Event 5 pts.)

Duration and Alterity –

Marianne Vitale (*Patron*), Tudor & Cage (4' 33")

Week 8: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

The Time Image –

Sam Taylor Wood (*A Little Death*) Douglas Gordon (*24 Hour Psycho*)

Week 9: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

The Sound Image –

Bruce Nauman (*Days*), Louis Lawler (*Artist Birdcalls*)

Week 10:

Spring Break (No Class Meeting)

Interactivity

Week 11: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

Social Participation –

Lennon & Ono (*Bed In*), Carsten Holler (*Test Site/Unilever*)

Week 12: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

Digital Culture –

Miyajima (*Mega Death*), Lozano-Hemmer (*Under Scan*)

Week 13: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

Technological Objects –

Bakkom (*Cinevator*), Alys (*Paradox of Praxis*)

Week 14: (Graded Event 10pts.)

Closed Systems –

Peter Halley (*Cell Explosion*), Sierra (*Three Black Vehicles Caracas*)

Week 15: (Graded Event 10 pts.)

Open Systems – Eliasson (*The Weather Project*), Kaprow (*Fluids*)