

# Arts and Compassion

HUM 6308 – Sections 25960 (GRAD) & 28116 (COMB)

## **Course Information**

Academic Term: Spring 2026

Instructor: Anna Carapellotti, PhD

Location: Online in Canvas

Meeting Times: Online asynchronous (Tuesdays 12:00 am EST – Mondays 11:59 pm EST)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-2:00 pm EST via Zoom and by appointment

Email: Canvas email (preferred); or UF email (as needed) [a.carapellotti@ufl.edu](mailto:a.carapellotti@ufl.edu)

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## **Course Description**

"You write in order to change the world ... if you alter, even by a millimeter, the way people look at reality, then you can change it." — James Baldwin

What is compassion? How do we show compassion as individuals, citizens, and professionals? What role do artists—visual artists, writers, dancers, thespians, singers and musicians—play in helping us better understand compassion, as well as how to give and receive it?

This online graduate course, Arts and Compassion, will examine the historical and theoretical roots of compassion in philosophy, spirituality, religion, psychology, and science. The course will also explore the practical ways artists use their work to represent, embody, enact, and elicit compassion. Students will explore compassion through exposure to a variety of expressive media including literature, music, visual art, movement, and theater.

## **Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and assess how compassion has been demonstrated through various historical, social, and cultural lenses
- Identify and articulate arts principles and practices as they relate to human compassion
- Critique works of art and their ability to communicate about and/or elicit compassion
- Apply principles of compassion to develop and execute an arts project designed to benefit the community

## **Required Textbooks and Software**

hooks, b. (1995). *Art on my mind: Visual politics*. The New Press.

Trzeciak, S., Mazzarelli, A., & Booker, C. (2019). *Compassionomics: The revolutionary scientific evidence that caring makes a difference*.

Additional readings, learning materials, and online resources will be shared via Canvas.

## **Additional Learning Materials**

Desktop or laptop computer for coursework (a tablet or phone will not be adequate for navigating Canvas or completing coursework).

- Canvas works most functionally on a laptop or desktop computer. Being a fully online program, it is *essential* that you have access to one of these in order to view the course and submit assignments. Tablets and phones will not work for participation in the graduate program as Canvas is not fully functional on these types of devices and this can negatively impact your learning experience.
- Internet connection and speed are vital for accessing Canvas, viewing multimedia materials, and uploading video content. These tasks are required for the program. Canvas recommends a minimum of 2 mbps for uploading materials and 4.5 mbps broadband for streaming course lectures and videos.

Creative Practice materials such as:

- Smartphone, camera, tablet, or computer with video recording and basic editing capabilities for Creative Practices
- Visual art materials

## ***Student Expectations***

The course is an asynchronous course that requires personal time-management and attention to deadlines. The course is three credits, but only 8-weeks long, so it is intense and fast-paced. As a student you should expect approximately 16 hours of work per week for this course. There will be between 1-4 hours of module learning, with the remainder of the time invested in discussions, the creative practice blog, and assignments. (See next page for Course Schedule).

## ***Course Schedule***

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
<b>Week 1</b>				
1	Defining compassion	Review all learning materials in Module 1	1. Discussion 1 2. Content Competency 1	1. 1/9, 1/12 2. 1/12
<b>Week 2</b>				
2	Listening compassionately	Review all learning materials in Module 2	1. Creative Practice 1 2. Content Competency 2	1. 1/16, 1/19 2. 1/19
<b>Week 3</b>				
3	Observing compassionately	Review all learning materials in Module 3	1. Discussion 2 2. Compassion & Art Project Proposal	1. 1/23, 1/26 2. 1/26
<b>Week 4</b>				
4	Depicting and evoking compassion	Review all learning materials in Module 4	1. Discussion 3 2. Creative Practice 2	1. 1/30, 2/2 2. 1/30, 2/2
<b>Week 5</b>				

5	Compassionate resistance	Review all learning materials in Module 5	1. Creative Practice 3 2. Content Competency 3	1. 2/6, 2/9 2. 2/9
<b>Week 6</b>				
6	Symbolism and compassion	Review all learning materials in Module 6	1. Discussion 4 2. Content Competency 4	1. 2/13, 2/16 2. 2/16
<b>Week 7</b>				
7	Compassionate futures	Review all learning materials in Module 7	1. Content Competency 5 2. Compassion and Art Project Presentation	1. 2/20 2. 2/22
<b>Week 8</b>				
8	Course synthesis	Review all learning materials in Module 8	1. Discussion 5	1. 2/26

***\*Please note the course calendar and the activities within it are subject to change. The syllabus does not include all details regarding learning materials and activities that students are required to complete each week.***

## **Course Assignments**

- Content Competency Quizzes** (25% of total grade): The quizzes are designed for students to assess student understanding of the readings and materials assigned for the week. Each content competency will include five questions that evaluate the student's comprehension of the assigned materials. Unless otherwise indicated, the quizzes are open-note quizzes and are not timed. Students have one attempt to complete the quiz.
- Discussions** (25% of grade): Students will substantively participate in online discussions with their peers and instructor(s) on the Discussion Board in Canvas. Discussion topics relating to course content will be posted by the instructor(s). Each student will post an initial post (**due Friday** by 11:59 pm EST) followed by a response post (**due Monday** by 11:59 pm EST) nearly every week throughout the course. See specific assignment guidelines for each Discussion in Canvas. Be aware that a portion of your Discussion grade depends on your timely participation in both the Friday and Monday posts.
- Creative Practice Blog** (30% of grade): Students will engage in a multidisciplinary creative practice. In this course, the instructor(s) will provide creative prompts and students will document their practices through an online creative "blog" hosted by Adobe Express. See assignment guidelines outlined in Canvas.
- Arts and Compassion Project and Presentation** (20% of grade)
  - Compassion Project Proposal** (15 points): Students will submit a proposal for their

final Compassion Project and Presentation. The proposal will clearly link concepts of compassion to arts engagement for community members. The scope of the project will be able to be executed in three weeks or less. See Canvas assignment for details.

2. **Compassion Project & Presentation** (85 points): Students will design and undertake their own compassionate art-based project using ideas and principles from the course. Students will choose the context and artistic media that best suits their vision of a compassionate art practice. Students will execute this project in their community. The presentation of their work will include an overview of the preparation, process, project, and outcomes of their project. It will include a conceptual analysis of their targeted audience, rationale for the choice of artistic media/processes and articulation of the facilitation process. It will also include a critical analysis of the project impact. Presentations will be video-recorded Pecha Kuchas. See Canvas assignment for details.

## **Course Procedures & Policies**

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

### **Expectations**

This is an online asynchronous course which means there is no set meeting time each week; however, there *are* set deadlines for discussions and assignment submissions. The course format requires time management and close attention to deadlines. The course is three credits and 8-weeks long, so it is full and fast-paced. **Students can expect approximately 16 hours of work per week for this course.** Each module includes approximately 3-6 hours of learning materials and assignment preparation. Students will invest the remaining time in discussions, creative practice, quizzes, and other assignments.

### **Attendance**

Consistent participation and timely and complete assignment submissions are the online forms of “attending class”. This expectation is consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>). Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require **appropriate documentation**. Additional information can be found in Attendance Policies. 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://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>.

### **Participation**

Participation in all aspects of this course is expected and essential to success. Course materials and activities are integral to learning. It is expected that students will log on to the course website and actively contribute to course activity consistently. The instructor(s) strive for consistent presence and are committed to being available to students both via email and one-to-one via video conferences or phone, as needed.

### **Communication**

It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the instructor promptly concerning any course-related questions or circumstances that might affect their participation in the course. Please contact

the instructor(s) with questions or concerns you have as soon as you have them. It is the instructors' intention to respond to e-mail communication within 48 hours.

If you have a general question related to an assignment, activity or other course material that may be relevant to other class members, you may post it on the Discussion Board under Course Questions. If your question is specific to your own work, progress, circumstances, grade, or is personal in nature, please email the instructor privately using the Mail function in Canvas.

## Assignment Submission

All assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Please review course procedures in Canvas for instructions on assignment submission, naming documents, late assignment submission, viewing grades/comments, and where to get help.

If you have computer difficulties submitting any assignments through the Assignment tab on the course website, notify UF Computer Help Desk at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) or 352-392-4357 **and** email your work as an attachment to your instructor(s). In your correspondence to the instructor, please include the case number provided to you by the UF Help Desk to document your request for assistance.

## Late Assignment Submission

As stated above, participation and assignment submission are the online forms of "attending class". Lack of participation or late assignment submission requires appropriate documentation.

Points will be deducted for late assignments by *10 percent per day* during the first 5 days past due. **Assignments will not be accepted if submitted on the sixth day, except in extenuating circumstances and with permission from the instructor.** Email your instructor immediately to document any technical difficulty and *attach the assignment* to the email to receive full credit.

*Note:* This is a fast-paced, graduate-level course, and late assignments may cause students to fall behind in accomplishing learning objectives and requirements; therefore, it is essential to communicate with the instructor to receive support and guidance in assignment completion or modification as necessary. It is the instructor's intention to support students to successfully complete the course objectives.

## Course Technology

If you are experiencing technical issues, please contact the Help Desk at <https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/> or (352) 392-HELP (4357) or [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu). Please note the case number provided by the UF Help Desk documenting your request for assistance and provide this to the instructor.

## Evaluation of Grades

Students will be evaluated and their grade determined in the following manner. Assignment guidelines and grading criteria and rubrics for each assignment can be found within the corresponding assignment on Canvas.

Grades and comments will be posted in Canvas. Comments about your grades appear with the specific assignment in Assignments or in the Gradebook feature under Comments. Please check in both places before inquiring about a grade. Current UF grading policies for assigning grade points

can be found on the following course website:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Content Competency Quizzes (5)	125 total	25%
Discussions (5)	125 total	25%
Creative Practice (3)	150 total	30%
Project Proposal and presentation	100 total	20%
	<b>TOTAL = 500</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading Policy

Grade	Percent	Grade Points
A	94-100%	4.0
A-	90-93.9%	3.67
B+	88-91.9%	3.33
B	85-87.9%	3.00
B-	81-84.9%	2.67
C+	78-80.9%	2.33
C	74-77.9%	2.00
C- *	71-73.9%	1.67
D+	67-70.9%	1.33
D	63-66.9%	1.00
D-	60-62.9%	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF		0.00

\*Please note that a C- is not an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)  
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

## UF Center for Arts in Medicine Resources

[Graduate Central](#): Includes New Student Orientation, Registration and Course Requirements, Practicum and Capstone Guides, and other helpful resources.

UF Center for Arts in Medicine Graduate Advisor: Phillip Herr-Klepacki  
([pklepacki@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:pklepacki@arts.ufl.edu))

[UF Arts in Medicine Library Guide and Research Resources](#)

[UF Center for Arts in Medicine Research Database](#)

[UF Center for Arts in Medicine Website](#)