

## ENG 6824

### PROSEMINAR: PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND VISUAL CULTURE

Instructor: Prof. Barbara Mennel

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Class meetings: Thursdays 4:05pm-7:05pm

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm (in-person and zoom)

Office phone: 352-273-4840

Classroom: TUR 2346

#### Course Description:

This proseminar introduces graduate students to the study of the humanities in the context of the public. It will survey theories of the public sphere with particular attention to foundational concepts and contemporary revisions. Reflecting current debates, the course will highlight the work of cultural institutions, from the museum to the movie house. Excursions and visits by practitioners and scholars, including advanced or former graduate students, will provide experiential learning and informational conversation. As a proseminar, the course will cover the changing work of graduate studies and attend to the range of academic and public genres and media, from the seminar paper, dissertation, and grant application to project-oriented collaboration and podcasts. The proseminar's focus will provide a framework for students engaging with a range of visual culture from historic examples to new media but is open to all graduate students.

The course may discuss publications by the following scholars and practitioners: Linda Martin Alcoff, Hannah Arendt, Dave Colangelo, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Nicole Fleetwood, Jürgen Habermas, and Jacqueline Stewart. Podcasts may include "Public Work: A Public Humanities Podcast," "Careers in the Public Humanities," and "Under Review: Rethinking Humanities Graduate Education."

The seminar requires participants to engage in collaborative processes to define, deliver, and present on a final project by December 12, 2022. The syllabus will include time for group formation and incremental assignments to assist in the process. The final submission may range from a traditional paper to engagement with public media and partners. Course participants may consider publication in a new Colloquy within Arcade on The Future of Public Humanities. To account for feasibility, participants may also submit a white paper or a grant proposal for a future project.

#### Grade:

Attendance, Participation, Collaboration, and Presentation	30%
Abstract	20%
Final Project	50%

#### Course Objectives:

The course will introduce graduate students to public humanities and offer the opportunity to engage in a collaborative public humanities project.

#### Required Reading and Listening:

The course required a range of genres, from books to podcasts and a significant number of websites and short essays. I have listed the required material throughout the Course Outline and will go over them on the first day of class.

#### Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

### **Course Evaluation**

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/> .

### **COVID-19 Statement**

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl](https://one.ufl.edu) for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence. As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.
- It is my understanding that masks are encouraged, and I will be wearing a mask. We will take breaks to step outside.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

#### **What are the Public Humanities & their Infrastructure?**

Thursday, August 25, 2022 – Introduction to Public Humanities

Thursday, September 1, 2022 – VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

4:00pm-4:45pm Virtual Conversation with Dr. Michelle May-Curry, Project Director, Humanities for All, National Humanities Alliance

5:00-5:45pm Virtual Conversation with Dr. Ayanni C. H. Cooper, Ph.D. English, UF

6:00-6:30pm The Future of the Public Humanities – Colloquy within Arcade

Roland Greene, Mark Pigott KBE Professor, Anthony P. Meier Family Professor of the Humanities, and Director, Humanities Center, Professor of Comparative Literature and, by courtesy, of Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University

Thursday, September 8, 2022 – Infrastructure of Public Humanities

Thursday, September 15, 2022 – Meeting canceled because Dr. Mennel will be at conference

## Site Visits and Group Formation

Thursday, September 22, 2022 – Conversation with Gabby Byam (Hippodrome Theatre, Director of Education) 4:30pm Cinema; Hippodrome, 25 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Gainesville FL 32601

Optional attendance and support

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
RETHINKING THE PUBLIC SPHERE PART IV SPEAKER SERIES 2022-2023  
PUBLIC HUMANITIES

Preserving Galaxy of Black Landmarks is an Act of Racial Justice

Brent Leggs (African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund & University of Pennsylvania)

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 2PM -- Smathers Library 100

Preserving African American Communities & Landmarks

A Conversation with BRENT LEGGS, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and  
Community Members

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 6:30PM -- COTTON CLUB MUSEUM -- 837 SE 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE

Thursday, September 29, 2022 – A Theory of Collaboration?

## Forms of Public Engagement

Thursday, October 6, 2022 – Public Writing Workshop with Laken Brooks (ABD, English)

Thursday, October 13, 2022 – Dr. Eric Segal – Visit to Harn Museum

Thursday, October 20, 2022 – Public Lecture: Barry Lam – Tentative: Classroom visit and dinner

**Barry Lam** (University of California, Riverside, Department of Philosophy)

**“Discretion and the Law: Rules and Those Who Ignore Them”**

**4:00 p.m. Thursday, October 20, 2022 – Smathers Libraries 100**

Thursday, October 27, 2022 – Grant writing -- Guest speaker: Belay Alem (PhD student,  
Anthropology)

**Group Work – The last four weeks of the semester can be arranged to accommodate graduate student projects. Readings might be rearranged depending on graduate students’ needs.**

Thursday, November 3, 2022 – Group Work and Discussion

Thursday, November 10, 2022 – Group Work and Discussion

Thursday, November 17, 2022 – Groups Work and/or Presentations and/or Discussion

Thursday, December 1, 2022 – Presentations and Final Discussion

Monday, December 12, 2022 Final Project due – no extensions

**Final projects:**

All participants must submit an abstract (max. 100 words) for their final project by Friday, October 28 at 5pm, the latest. For group projects, all members of a group submit one shared abstract. If you have a community partner, make sure that the community partner also approves. Seminar participants can submit additional material with their abstract, e.g., if they have specific questions but all submission must include a 100-word abstract at the beginning.

In addition to submitting the abstract, I also require a meeting to discuss the project prior to Thursday, November 3, 2022.

**Final project may take the following form:**

- Completed public humanities project, possibly with collaborators at UF or beyond
- Project outline for a future public humanities project, hypothetical or to be completed as independent studies in spring semester 2023, possibly with collaborators at UF or beyond
- Submission of piece of public writing
- Grant proposal for public humanities, submitted or to be submitted (e.g., Florida Humanities Council)
- Other public humanities engagement, such as podcast, blog, exhibition, event, program, teaching unit