

Fall 2021

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Course Syllabus

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Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin Coin Purse

\$100.00 \$80.00

LIT 6855 Class # 15904 Section 3A97 Meets Fridays Periods 3-5 (9:35 AM - 12:35 PM)

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Susan Hegeman (pronouns: she/her/hers)/shegeman@ufl.edu/ 352-294-2815 / TUR 4119 / Zoom meeting room: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224

EMAIL: The best way to reach me is by email. Canvas email, or shegeman@ufl.edu. I will answer your email within 24 hours, if not sooner.

OFFICE HOURS: Friday afternoons 1-3 pm, or email me to arrange another appointment time. You may meet me in person (TUR 4119) or via Zoom (https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224)

Course Description

What is value(d), and how do we make evaluative judgments, as literary or film critics, as academics, and as social actors? In this course, we will study classic positions in the theory of aesthetic judgment (including Hume and Kant). We will read works of literary history and criticism that address problems of evaluation. We will also read more recent works in aesthetics and the theory of value and evaluation, and works in the sociology of value and taste, covering such topics as the formation of literary canons and the meaning and creation of prestige. This course is widely interdisciplinary, and should be of interest to students wanting to expand their knowledge of the history and theory of criticism and aesthetics, and to explore social-scientific approaches to the study of culture.

Course Goals and Objectives

Through genuine and persistent engagement with course materials, activities, and discussions, students will:

- gain a critical understanding of some key theoretical concepts and debates related to aesthetic, philosophical, social, and cultural approaches to value and evaluation
gain fluency in current critical debates about, and key approaches in, literary history and criticism
develop knowledge of and skills in interpreting, discussing, and writing critically about key texts in cultural studies and critical theory
develop skills in academic writing, research, and argumentation

Required Course Materials

The following books are required reading for the course. They are listed in the order in which we will read them. ISBN numbers refer to the paperback editions. Other editions, including e-books are acceptable.

- Susan Sontag, Against Interpretation (paperback: 978-0312280864)
Sianne Ngai, Our Aesthetic Categories: Zany, Cute, Interesting (Harvard, 2015) 9780674046580
Pierre Bourdieu, The Field of Cultural Production, ed. Randal Johnson (978-0231082877)
James English, The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards, and the Circulation of Cultural Value (978-0674030435)
Richard Jean So, Redlining Culture: A Data History of Racial Inequality in Postwar Fiction (978-0231197731)
Rachel Sagner Buurma and Laura Heffernan, The Teaching Archive: A New History for Literary Study (978-0226736136)
Rachel Greenwald Smith, On Compromise: Art, Politics, and the Fate of an American Ideal (978-1644450604)

All other course materials—other required and supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments, and it is recommended that you have access to Zoom for meeting your instructor in office hours.

For help with Canvas or Zoom, contact the UF Computing Help Desk: Web: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357) Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Recording Policy

Per state law, 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 and Student Conduct Code.

Class Comportment

- Respectful interactions among students are expected. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication in all formats, both written and oral.
Per university policy, you are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated against COVID.
If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
If you get sick, you are expected to stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. 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 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFhealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.
If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active participation in the seminar is expected. You should be prepared to engage in active discussion of the assigned reading. You will also be asked to informally introduce the readings for a given week. This will include a set of discussion prompts of questions generated by the reading. They will be posted on the course discussion board, ideally the Thursday night before the seminar.

Written Assignments

Students will hand in 25-30 pages (7500-9000 words, including reference matter) of written work over the course of the semester. Depending on your needs and goals for the course, this may be in the form of three short papers of 8-10 pages in length, one long paper, or a long and a short paper. Creative papers are acceptable with prior approval.

Students choosing to write one long paper or creative project should be in consultation with me early in the semester and should post a prospectus of 1-2 pages on the Discussion Board (Paper prospectuses) by November 1. These documents will be available to the rest of the class, and comments from other students are encouraged. I recommend that advanced students working on extended projects related to the course material write one long paper. Students whose goals are to develop a strong familiarity with the material should consider writing shorter papers of a more explication sort.

Due Dates

- October 1, November 1: due dates for short papers
November 1: prospectuses for longer papers due on the course discussion board. Students writing two shorter papers must turn the first paper in by this date
December 10: last day to turn in papers and receive comments before the end of the semester
December 17: last day to turn in a paper and receive a GRADE for the semester (You will receive comments on your paper, but not before Dec. 21.)

Course Policy on Incompletes

I am willing to let students take Incompletes to have more time to complete a long final research paper. However, I will accept seminar papers and grade them for full credit only until the end of the spring 2021 semester. Students who turn in papers after this date will not receive an "A" in the course. More information on grades, including the grading scale, is available in the Graduate Catalogue here.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations 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 which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/). Plagiarism or any other violation of the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/ According to the Student Conduct Code,

- "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Course Evaluation

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.ufl.edu/students/(Links to an external site). 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.bluer.com/ufl/(Links to an external site). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.ufl.edu/public-results/(Links to an external site).

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or http://www.police.ufl.edu/

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to LearninLearning-support@ufl.edu-support@ufl.edu / https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Career Resource Center: Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling https://www.crc.ufl.edu/(Links to an external site.)

Library Support: http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Tutoring Center: Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

A detailed schedule of readings and discussions is located on the following page on Canvas: Reading and Discussion Schedule. It may be changed to accommodate student needs and intervals or other exigencies. I will announce any changes well in advance.

Course Summary:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Details, Due. Lists course activities from Fri Aug 27, 2021 to Fri Dec 10, 2021.