

DIRECTED STUDY (INDEPENDENT STUDY)

ART 5905C

Class Periods: To arrange

Location: online

Academic Term: CSUM2024

Student: Alex Abair

Instructor:

Anthea Behm

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Office Phone Number: (352) 273-3036

Office: FAD303

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Directed Study: Independent study in Studio Art under the direction of a faculty member. This course will help develop practices to critically explore and challenge prevailing ideologies in artificial intelligence, species concepts, and the dissemination of biological information. Over the course of the semester, the student will interrogate how these domains influence public understanding and perpetuate certain biases.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

Student must have permission of instructor

Course Objectives

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of how artificial intelligence impacts species classification and ecological interpretations within biological sciences.
- Explore and articulate the ethical and philosophical issues surrounding species concepts, aiming to create a personal framework for understanding these concepts in your artistic practice.
- Identify and analyze a list of relevant artists and scientists who challenge traditional views on species classification and biological data dissemination.
- Create a list of impactful technological and biological interventions in art that examine or subvert conventional modes of information sharing.
- Articulate relationships between artificial intelligence, species concept critiques, and information dissemination within the context of contemporary art and biology.
- Compile an annotated bibliography of resources that cover artificial intelligence in biology, critical species studies, and innovative art practices that intersect with these themes.
- Write and develop artist statements that clearly communicate the concepts, methodologies, and technological aspects of your work, detailing how these elements manifest in your creations.
- Develop technical competencies with software, coding, and potentially biotechnological tools to create artworks that challenge or reinterpret biological data and its presentation.

Required Textbooks & Fees

No required texts or fees for this course

Course Schedule

Week 1 (May 13): Assemble reading materials and artist references resulting from second-year review

Week 2 (May 20): Read 5 sources, explore 10 artists
 Week 3 (May 27): Integrate new findings into thesis blueprint and meet with instructor
 Week 4 (June 3): Read 5 sources, explore 10 artists, and begin first creative work
 Week 5 (June 10): Read 10 sources, experiment with new AI techniques that are in line with new research
 Week 6 (June 17): Read 10 sources and complete first creative work
 Week 7 (June 24): Reading/holiday
 Week 8 (July 1): Meet with instructor, assemble annotated bibliography, reevaluate research intentions and identify new readings
 Week 9 (July 8): Refine thesis exhibition ideas
 Week 10 (July 15): Read 5 sources, explore 10 artists, continue creative work
 Week 11 (July 22): Read 5 sources, explore 10 artists, continue creative work
 Week 12 (July 29): Complete a module for thesis exhibition
 Week 13 (August 5): Meet with instructor, plan of action for the next and final academic year and discuss artist statement

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

Evaluation of Grades

Grades are calculated using a point system. Each assignment has a point value, and point values for all assignments added up to 100. A letter grade is assigned according to the grading scale below.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)

[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Grading Scale

A 94-100 points, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 61-63, E below 61

Assignments

| Assignment | Number to be completed | Points | Total Points | Due Date | Details and Grading Criteria |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Readings and literature review | 40 sources | | 30 | Ongoing over course of semester | Connecting readings to art practice, annotated bibliography and reflective writing; perusing sources to discover most relevant for practice; application of literature review to artist statements. |
| Creative works | Body of work with multiple | | 40 | Ongoing over | Quality, quantity, and articulation |

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|------------------|---|----|-----|---|--|
| | experiments culminating in at least one finished work | | | course of semester and at midterm and end of semester | |
| Artist statement | At least 2 | | 15 | Ongoing over course of semester | One artist statement to accompany each creative work and over all thesis. Articulates the form, terms, and technological aspects of the work. Each element (form, terms, technology) is evaluated. |
| Attendance | 1 | 20 | 15 | Ongoing over course of semester | Evaluated for rigor of research (40%), development of ideas (40%), and clarity of writing (20%) at the graduate level. |
| TOTAL | | | 100 | | |

Students Requiring 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.

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.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/>.

University Honesty Policy

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 Honor 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 consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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 the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

COVID Issues

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.UF 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, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

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 Policy on Course Syllabi 3 UF, Academic Affairs, August 5th, 2021 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is 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: 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 police.ufl.edu.

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](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, [visit the GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints