**Course Description and Goals:** This (un)common arts course is based around a single exhibition, *Speechless: Text & Image in Global Culture*. The class will survey global themes (and variations) in the use of text and image in aesthetic messaging. Throughout the semester, we will look at African art, Asian art, modern and contemporary art, and photography and compare historical examples to our contemporary experiences. Assignments will include in-gallery discussions, visual analysis and comparison, selected contextual readings, and some creative writing/drawing tasks to be assigned. (No prior creative writing or drawing experience required, and no museum or art history experience is expected). Talks throughout the semester will include Harn curators and other guests who will speak about one or more works in the exhibition.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to communicate the depth of the use of the visual and textual historically. Students will use critical analysis of objects in the exhibition and on display in a museum setting to reflect on how perception and experience are influenced by the power of image & text.

**Texts and Readings:** All readings will be accessible through [eLearning - University of Florida (ufl.edu)](https://elearning.ufl.edu).

**Requirements and Assignments:**

**Attendance & Participation 35%:** Attendance is mandatory, and participation is critical in this in-gallery class. Curators and subject-area experts will give gallery talks and conversations throughout the semester, and most of this content will not be available elsewhere. Students are expected to join the class discussion and readings should be completed before each class session. Please review the UF [Attendance Policies < University of Florida (ufl.edu)](https://www.ufl.edu/igo/student-affairs/student-life/student-attendance-policy) for additional information on absences or makeup work.

**In-Class Assignments 25%:** Assignments that are assigned and completed during the class period.

**Speaker Prep/Other 25%:** In preparation for each guest speaker, students are required to compose two questions in advance based on the readings. These can be submitted through Canvas.

**Final Walkthrough Presentations 15%:** Throughout the semester, students will build a portfolio of materials that can be used to create a final presentation to the class. Final presentations on December 6th during the class period. No final exam.
Class Schedule:

Tuesday, August 30 – Introductions, syllabus review
“Note to Future Self” Assignment – In the exhibition

Tuesday, September 6: Multiple Messages in Ghanian Textiles: Adinkra Symbols
Guest Speaker: Professor James Essegbi, African Languages and Linguistics
*Due before class: Compose two questions for the speaker based on the reading and submit them through Canvas.

Tuesday, September 13 – Reinventing the MUSEUM – Museums as Places of Authority

Tuesday, September 20 – Mid-20th Century Photographs and Urban Design
Guest Speaker: Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography, Harn Museum
*Required Reading: Photorealism. Examination of the photorealist works in the exhibition. (Article and image reproductions all available on Canvas)
*Due before class: Compose two questions for the speaker based on the reading and submit them through Canvas.

Tuesday, September 27 - The Art of Memory
Guest Instructor: Paige Willis, Harn Museum, Community Engagement, & Museum Interpretation Manager

Tuesday, October 4 - Get a Job! / Intro to Propaganda
Tuesday, October 11 – Typography as Art & Propaganda
Guest Speaker: Assistant Professor Dori Griffiths, UF Graphic Design
*Required readings (Choose 3): (all on Canvas)
Nope to Hope: The Power of Graphics in Politics + Protest
How #BLM Uses Social Media to Fight the Power
W.E.B. duBois: Charting Black Lives
A Century of Posters Protesting Violence Against Black Americans
Who Are the Black Squares Really For?
*Due before class: Compose two questions for the speaker based on the readings and submit them through Canvas.

Tuesday, October 18 – Poetry Workshop, In the Exhibition
Led by Harn Museum Docents: Lisa Jerry, Beverly Leibach, and Linda Nickel
*Required reading: Descriptions of free verse, couplets, and renga. (on Canvas)
*Due before class. Online prompt: Poetry in Speechless.

Tuesday, October 25 – Text & Image in Japanese Prints
Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Ann Wehmeyer, Japanese and Linguistics
*Due before class: Compose two questions for the speaker based on the readings and submit them through Canvas.

Tuesday, November 1 – Multiple Meanings: Text, Image, and Form
Guest Speaker: Tongyun Yin, Cofrin Curator of Asian Art, Harn Museum
*Required readings: Museum labels from two objects in the exhibition, & To be Assigned (on Canvas)
*Due before class: Compose two questions for the speaker based on the readings and submit them through Canvas.
Tuesday, November 8 – Tour of Harn Museum Registration Department
Guest Speaker: Jessica Uelsmann, Senior Registrar, Harn Museum

Tuesday, November 15 – What is the Point (of Art)?

Tuesday, November 22 — Flex Class Session – Students’ Choice
Review of Final Assignment
Rubric and instructions also on canvas by October 18th.

Tuesday, November 29 - Synesthesia and How Your Brain Looks at Art
* Required video: Beau Lotto: Optical illusions show how we see | TED Talk

Tuesday, December 6 – Class Presentations – In the Exhibition
Class presentations in gallery – 5-7 minutes per student

**Class Policies:**
Cell phones, pagers, watch alarms, and all other noise-making devices must be turned off during class.

**No TM, IM, e-mail, internet gaming, or web browsing in class.** (Unless it’s part of the class!)

**Academic Honesty:** The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. [Student Conduct Code | SCCR (ufl.edu)](https://sccr.ufl.edu)

**UF Grading Policy:** [Grades and Grading Policies < University of Florida](https://sccr.ufl.edu)

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** 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](https://sccr.ufl.edu). 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.

**Class 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 [here](https://sccr.ufl.edu).