

IDH2930 (Un)Common Read: World on Fire: Mourning Lost Futures and Reimagining the World

Fall 2025 | credits 1.00



© K.C. Green

NOTE: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "[Academic Policies and Resources](#)" web page.

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: Thursday Period 4, 10:40-11:30am

Class location: Little Hall 0117

Instructor(s):

Name: Dr. Adrienne Strong

Office Building/Number: Grinter 441

Phone: 352-392-4490

Email: adrienne.strong@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 2-3pm or by appointment via calendly.com/adrienne-strong

Course Description

Current events now and in the recent past have caused many of us to rethink what we know, how we know it, and what we had planned for our futures. As we try to live and work and dream in a deeply divided country, Jaffe's *From the Ashes* tells us that collective grief and mourning lead to revolution. As we analyze the events in Jaffe's book and process unfolding current events each week, we will work with Gainesville organizations to lead a community reimagining of our collective futures. What is our place in the world? How do we process everything happening around us, especially when much of it is violent, sad, unjust, or oppressive? Solidarity and collective action, building and connecting with community are the only way through. In class, we will imagine together what a collective future might look like in Gainesville, for each of us, and for the world.

Prerequisites

None.

General Education Designation: None.

Course Materials

- *From the Ashes: Grief and Revolution in a World on Fire* by Sarah Jaffe
- *Imagination: A Manifesto* by Ruha Benjamin

Materials will be available through the following means:

Books are available through our partnership with The Lynx bookstore or through the UF bookstore on campus. Any other readings will be available on Canvas.

Materials Fee: None

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

In this course we will:

- Explore historical roots of current events
- Think about how to create new ideas about a global future
- Study the broad impact of capitalist systems on current global events
- Explore the role of imagination in designing collective futures

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Produce a community event applying course content to initiate coalition building
- Analyze current events in historical perspective
- Apply causal layered analysis to imagine the future

III. Graded Work

Graded Components

Participation (25%): Consistent informed, thoughtful, and considerate class participation is expected and a crucial component of a seminar course. See the rubric below. NOTE: If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., see me as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

	High Quality	Average	Needs Improvement
Informed: Shows evidence of having done the assigned work.			
Thoughtful: Shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised.			
Considerate: Takes the perspective others into account.			

Attendance (25%): Weekly attendance is mandatory. Absences that are not University excused absences will result in a 2-percentage point reduction in your final grade. I will not consider things like planned volunteering, internships, doctor's appointments (other than acute health issues) as being excused. Please plan your schedule accordingly. 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://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Weekly Response Papers (25%): Brief 300-500 word responses thinking through the week's reading, connecting it to current events and including questions or thoughts for class discussion. These papers serve as a way to reflect on the material read for that week. They are due at the start of class. The paper should include any comments, questions, or criticisms you have related to the material, as well as any comments you want to be sure to cover in the class discussion. These responses should be thoughtful and be your attempt to engage with the material in preparation for class. To be successful, you might want to take some notes while reading, in addition to reflecting on what elements of the assigned readings stuck with you the most after you finish.

Final Project (25%): To be designed as the whole class and carried out at the end of the semester, this will be a community-facing event around the themes of the class. More details will be presented in class and available on Canvas.

TOTAL: 100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

IV. Calendar

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
August 21, 2025	Introductions	Syllabus, class plan	

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
August 28, 2025	The State of Things	Jaffe, Introduction	Weekly Response
September 4, 2025	State Violence	Jaffe, Break I, Chapter 1	Weekly Response
September 11, 2025	Migration	Jaffe, Break II, Chapter 2	Weekly Response
September 18, 2025	Labor	Jaffe, Break III, Chapter 3	Weekly Response
September 25, 2025	Health and Care	Jaffe, Break IV, Chapter 4	Weekly Response
October 2, 2025	Climate Change	Jaffe, Break V, Chapter 5	Weekly Response
October 9, 2025	A Time of Collapse	Jaffe, Break VI, Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Response • Group proposal of final event
October 16, 2025	Whose Imagination?	Benjamin, Preface, Intro, Chapters 1 and 2	Weekly Response
October 23, 2025	Imagining Justice	Benjamin, Chapters 3 and 4	Weekly Response
October 30, 2025	Imagining the Future	Benjamin, Chapters 5 and 6	Weekly Response
November 6, 2025	What is Casual Layered Analysis? (Class on Zoom- Dr. Strong at World Anthropological Union conference)- Down the iceberg	Ted Talk by Sohail Inayatullah on CLA Brief overview of CLA	Weekly Response
November 13, 2025	CLA- And back up the iceberg	No reading, in class activity continued	
November 20, 2025	(Class on Zoom, Dr. Strong at American Anthropological Association conference)	Work session for final event	Class timeline of event, activities, etc. should be finalized
November 27, 2025	No Class- Thanksgiving		
December 4, 2025	No Class		Final Project to be completed before 12/12

V. Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr. John Krigbaum (krigbaum@ufl.edu, [352-294-7540](tel:352-294-7540)). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1308](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1261](tel:352-392-1261)).