

IDH 3931

Zines: Writings From Underground

Section UW02 | No. 23581 | Fall 2025

Wednesday, 4th Period (10:40 am - 11:30 am), LIT 0117

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Office: 2215 Turlington Hall, University Writing Program

Office Hours: Wednesday noon – 2:00 pm & by appointment

THE (UN)COMMON WRITES

(Un)Common Writes courses are 1-credit themed writing workshops taught by University Writing Program faculty. These courses allow students the opportunity to work 1:1 with experienced instructors while stretching their writing muscles, inspiring their creative side, and releasing their inner writer.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Zines have been quirky, self-published pamphlets circulating in small circles of underground and alternative cultures for nearly a century. As amateur as they can be, zines also carry some of the most earnest, sometimes most urgent, voices from both individuals and collectives within local communities. Through exploring the kaleidoscopic horizon of genres and media, students in this class will learn about the history and techniques of making zines. They will create zines as an outlet for self-expressions, as well as a vehicle for community engagement covering a wide range of topics. At the end of the semester, students will also have the opportunity to present and display their works at local cafes and bookstores—zines' natural habitats.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of class, students will be able to

- (Content) explain the historic significance of zine as a genre and medium of communication and its limitations
- (Critical Thinking) analyze zines in terms of the quality of arguments and ideas
- (Communication) create zines based on research and/or personal narratives

TEXTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

There is no required textbook for this class. All assigned readings will be available through Canvas, or provided in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

READINGS AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [80 POINTS]

- Readings are required.
- All assigned readings should be done by the beginning of that week's class.
- Discussion questions need to be posted onto Canvas Discussion Board by the beginning of that week's class.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS [350 POINTS]

Zine I. Group Meta-Zine [150 points]

After reading the history of Zines, as well as the communities around them, and exploring the various technics of creating zines, you will be creating a zine to answer one question: what are zines?

- You will be working with one or two other students as a group.
- A project book [50 points] must be kept for documenting sources, concepts, and progress.
- Your zines [100 points] will be shared with your classmates for feedback.

Zine II. Personal Zine [200 points]

Create a zine for a topic that you care about.

- You will be working individually.
- A project book [50 points] must be kept for documenting sources, concepts, and progress.
- Your zine [150 points] will be presented at in-class Zinefest with your classmates.

COURSE REFLECTION [50]

Over the course of the term, you have learned many things related to zines, from history to practice. Reflect on your growth and journey. What will you take out of the course? How do you imagine that it might help you in the future? If applicable, what might you have done differently?

GRADING

This course follows [UF grades and grading policies](#). This class will use the UF recommended grading scale.

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 60.0%
E	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. Class only meets once a week, so attendance is important. Grades will drop by one letter grade for every 3 absences, starting the second week of class.

Only those absences due to university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, religious holidays, quarantine, illness, or serious family emergencies will be exempted from this policy. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed. For absences due to quarantine or illness, your instructor may require a signed doctor's note.

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this class are consistent with university policies that can be found at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Please note: If students are absent, it is their responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

Tardiness: If students enter class after roll has been taken, they are late, which disrupts the entire class. Two instances of tardiness count as one absence.

CLASS RECORDING POLICY

The State of Florida has passed a law regarding the recording of classes by students.

- A Student may record a **class lecture** for three specified purposes as outlined in House Bill 233/Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes:
 1. For the student's own personal educational use;
 2. In connection with a complaint to the University where the recording is made
 3. As evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding.
- Students may audio or video record a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled. Students do not need advance permission, or to provide notice, to record.
- A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty (instructor of record) or guest lecturer, as part of a University of Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Lecture is inclusive of faculty-led discussions that are integrated into the educational presentation.
- A class lecture **does not** include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, **academic exercises involving 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.
- A recording of a class lecture may not be published without the consent of the lecturer.
 - **Publish** is defined as sharing, transmitting, circulating, distributing, or providing 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.

- A recording, or transcript of the recording, is considered to be published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper or leaflet.
- 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.

CLASSROOM DEMEANOR

Students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write may engage controversial topics and opinions. Much of this class is discussion-based, so it is vital that we show respect for each other's views. Please demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

Students are required to mute cell phones, laptops, and tablets during class. Ringing phones and text messaging is an unprofessional disruption, which may result in being asked to leave the classroom and being counted absent. Please let your instructor know about personal emergencies requiring phone contact.

Treat class time as an opportunity ***not*** to multi-task!

IN-CLASS WORK

Active participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in small groups and participate in group discussions, writing workshops, peer reviews, and other in-class activities. Be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. In general, students are expected to contribute constructively to each class session.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. *See the [UF Conduct Code website](#) for more information.* If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. **Quoting oral or written materials** including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, **without proper attribution.**
2. **Submitting a document or assignment** which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment **not authored by the student.**

Each student's work will be tested for originality against a wide variety of databases by anti-plagiarism sites to which the University subscribes, and negative reports from such sites may constitute proof of plagiarism. Some (but not all!) examples of plagiarism are copying-and-pasting anything from the Internet without proper quotation, citation, or attributive tags, and using work you have previously submitted without permission from the instructor.

Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use "unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit". *Cheating includes use of "entities" to complete work.* "Entity" is defined in the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>) in Section 2, "Definitions" as:

This includes but is not limited to generative artificial intelligence, large language models, content generation bots, or other non-human intelligence or digital tools.

Several items in "Cheating" refer to the use of Entities.

1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another person or **Entity** without the other person or Entity's express Consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity.
2. Using any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a Student.
5. Collaborating with another person or **Entity**, through any medium, on any academic activity, when Faculty has expressly prohibited collaboration.
6. Commissioning or seeking to commission another person or **Entity**, with or without compensation, to produce or complete academic work or to impersonate a student in any academic activity.

Instructors may choose if students can use an Entity for class assignments and if so, under what conditions.

If you are not sure about the instructor's policy regarding the use of Entities for completing assignments, please ask *before submitting an assignment*.

If you commit academic dishonesty, the instructor will submit the incident to the Dean of Students Office as an Honor Code violation.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: NOTIFICATION LETTER FROM DEAN OF STUDENTS REQUIRED FOR PERSONAL EMERGENCY

Students who experience a family or personal emergency (death in the family, unplanned hospitalization, etc.) may contact the Dean of Students Office and request notification letters be sent to their professors. Students are required to provide faculty members with appropriate documentation to support their absence unless, due to the nature of the issue, the information is provided to and verified by the Dean of Students' Office.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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](#). 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.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

For guidance during distressing situations, please contact U Matter We Care or the Dean of Students Office. They can help students navigate resources and academic procedures for personal, medical, and academic issues.

- U Matter We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-2273 (CARE) Dean of Students: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261
- Field and Fork Pantry: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>, located near McCarty B, 352-294-2208
- Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, multiple locations, (352) 392-1161
- Aid-a-Gator: <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/aidagator/>, S-107 Criser Hall, (352) 392-1275
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- 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](#).
- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- 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.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: ACADEMIC LIFE

- [Honors Program](#): 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>
- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [CLAS Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the [Complaint Portal webpage](#) for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the [Student Complaint Procedure webpage](#) for more information.

UF COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

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.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

MODULE 1 | COURSE INTRO

Week One, Aug. 21- 24, No Class

- Activities:
 - Discussion Board

Week Two, Aug. 25 – 31, Introductions

- Reading:
 - The Syllabus

MODULE 2 | PLACING ZINES

Week Three, Sept. 1 – 7, The Making of Zines

- Reading:
 - Stephen Duncombe, *Notes from Underground*, Ch. 1 “Zine”
 - Chris Atton & James F. Hamilton, *Alternative Journalism*, Ch. 5 “Contemporary Practices of Alternative Journalism”

Week Four, Sept. 8 – 14, Still Zine-ing

- Reading:
 - Stephen Duncombe, *Notes from Underground*, New Afterword, “Zines Still Matters”
 - Truly CA, “[But I Love the Zine](#)”

MODULE 3 | READING ZINES

Week Five, Sept. 15 – 21, Elements of Zine, I

- Selected Zines and Online Archive

Week Six, Sept. 22 – 28, Elements of Zine, II

- Selected Zines and Online Archive

MODULE 4 | MAKING ZINES

Week Seven, Sept. 29 – Oct. 5, Stormy Brains to Dirty Hands

- Reading:
 - Rona Akbari, “[How to make a zine](#)”

Week Eight, Oct. 6 – 12, Zine Workshop, Source, Concept, & Structure

Week Nine, Oct. 12- 19, Zine Workshop, Narrative, Visual, & Forms

Week Ten, Oct. 20 – 26, Sharing Meta-Zine

MODULE 5 | IT'S YOUR ZINE TO SHINE

Week Eleven, Oct. 27 – Nov. 2, What you care about?

- Activities:
 - Topic development and discussion
 - Drawing inspirations

Week Twelve, Nov. 3 – 9, What do you have?

- Activities:
 - Drafting and Crafting within limits

Week Thirteen, Nov. 10 – 16, Assemble Materials

- Activities:
 - Workshop personal zine

Week Fourteen, Nov. 17 – 23,
Fall Break, no class

Week Fifteen, Dec. 1 – 3, Zinefest