



Photo credit: Jeff Kravitz (Getty Images) - Eras Tour

# Taylor Swift & Art

Spring 2026

IDH2952: 26508

Honors (un)Common Arts

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Peer instructor: Lexi McDonnough

Wednesdays, 5:10-6:00

Dear listeners,

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call us Melina and Lexi.

Are you ready for it? In this class, students will fearlessly jump then fall into 13 gorgeous weeks of discussing Taylor Swift's discography, with a focus on her evergreen songwriting, and use Swift's enchanting lyrics to inform their art in the form of paintings, photographs, and more. Each week, students will be expected to keep their eyes open and examine closely in order to listen, discuss, reflect, argue, and write on various themes. Students will collaborate with their peers to annotate lyrics, analyze themes, and participate in class discussions. Students will participate in thematic assignments which include identifying inspirational artwork in Gainesville, creating their own artwork, and collaborating on a final group project. As we go through the course, we encourage you to think critically about the texts and the topics we encounter and to push your creativity. Achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed through engagement in the playlist annotations, class discussions, your artwork, and the final group project.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the University, we invite you to talk to us or someone that you trust. Whether this is your first, last, or somewhere in-between year at UF, college life can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your family, your friends, or your instructors isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on Canvas to help you. We are happy to help you understand how these can be helpful for you.

You never owe Melina nor Lexi personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to us about whatever you're going through. If you tell us that you're having trouble, we're not going to judge you or think less of you. If you need extra help or if you need to miss a class or need more time with an assignment, please ask. We will work with you to make sure you have the opportunity to engage with the material you may miss because of an illness or other life issues.

## Course Goals

In this course, students will

- identify and explain key themes in select songs from Taylor Swift's musical catalog
- discuss and analyze their perspectives in writing, and in small-group and whole class settings
- create artwork that reflect the themes and the artist's personal connections
- collaborate with peers on a final project

## Introduction Post

You will introduce yourself to your peers.

You will also go out into the community and find art that inspires you.

## Annotations and Class Discussions

The class will cover 4 major themes. Each theme spans two or three weeks.

Throughout the modules you will listen to two required playlists of 6 songs each (about 30 minutes), annotate at least 3 songs on Perusall and respond to at least 2 peer comments by Tuesday night. Two of the weeks, we will bring in artwork that ties into the themes so we can discuss the strategies that the artists used and how you can apply similar strategies in your own work.

Attendance and participation are required for class on Wednesdays, since this is a discussion-based class. We will discuss the playlists, your annotations, and the artwork.

The last Wednesday of each module will be dedicated to your artwork: painting, collage, photography, and video creation. Your artwork will reflect that module's general theme and the themes you found while annotating and discussing. Your artwork and an accompanying artist statement will be due by the end of the week. You are also encouraged to start your piece before class if you need more time.

To encourage critical thinking about the themes in the playlists and how they connect with the world and with your art, we will be pushing you to ask deep questions, reflect on your experiences, give your peers constructive feedback, and disagree using your interpretations or experiences. We also ask for respectful and thoughtful engagement as they will lead to better understandings of the music and of each other. A response that consists of, "You wrote ... I agree! Your response is great!" won't be enough.

## Final Group Project

We will be working in small groups to prepare for Taylor's next tour. This will entail choosing 40-45 songs for the lineup and creating promotional materials such as the overall visual branding with official tour poster, social media posts, digital ads, merchandise, and the corporate sponsors.

## **Reflection**

Your final assignment will be a reflection on the themes that stood out to you and how those themes informed both your critical understanding of the chosen discography and the art you created this semester.

## **Required Materials**

Links to playlists, lyrics, and other materials will be provided on the course Canvas page.

## **Make-Up Policy**

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion or assignment, Melina will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. We prefer late engagement than no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The final project and reflection have stricter deadlines because they will be our last assignments. As with everything else, if you are struggling with that assignment, please talk to us.

If you need to miss class, please email Melina and be prepared to post your discussion responses for the week on the discussion page.

## **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect 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.

## **Honors Grading Requirement**

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. 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 Completion credit. If you have questions about this, please consult the Honors Program information under Campus Resources.

## **Materials and Supplies Fees**

None

TSA



# SCHEDULE

**Week 1:**  
**Intro & art inspiration**

**Module 3:**  
**Relationships with self**

**Module 1:**  
**Relationships with men**

**Module 4:**  
**Relationships with public**

**Module 2:**  
**Relationships with women**

**Final:**  
**Group project & reflection**

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## Evaluation of Grades

Introduction post with art inspiration and replies = 20 points

Annotate lyrics on Perusall (4 x 10 points each) = 40 points

In-class art analysis (2 x 10 points each) = 20 points

In-class art activity (4 x 20 points each) = 80 points

Final group project = 100 points

Final reflection = 40 points

# University of Florida policies

## University Student Honor Code

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 instructors in this class.

## 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. Links can be found on Canvas.

## Campus Resources

Links to health and wellness, campus connections, academic resources, and complaints can be found on Canvas.

## Course 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.

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.

The background is a solid light pink color, decorated with several large, expressive paint splatters in various colors including orange, red, dark red, and light blue. The splatters are scattered across the page, with some being very large and others being small droplets or streaks. The text "Taylor Swift & Art" is written in a white, cursive script font, centered horizontally and slightly below the vertical center of the image.

Taylor Swift & Art