

University of Miami AMS350  
HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
**Mapping Miami's Contemporary Culture**  
WEDNESDAYS, 3:35pm-6:05pm  
Merrick 214F  
Lecturer: Cathy Byrd  
[EMAIL](#)  
Office hours by appointment

**Once Upon a Time in Miami—Stories from the Cultural Landscape**  
TENTATIVE Calendar Spring 2020

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

How did Miami become a destination for international contemporary art and ground zero for sea level rise at the same time?

Exploring the City's past, present and possible future, students learn audio podcasting—how to use digital tools to uncover, collect, produce and share stories from the cultural landscape. The course will deepen knowledge and understanding of this metropolis through research, reading and writing, local experts, interviews, field recordings, site visits and participation in public events. Diving into contemporary cultural history and current events, the course mines local resources to illuminate the role of creativity in addressing the impact of growth, development and climate change on Miami's communities.

**Bio:**

Cathy Byrd is a globally engaged curator, educator, podcaster and writer with more than 20 years of experience in the field of contemporary art. Her writing appears in the *Miami Rail*, *Art Papers*, *Art in America*, *Sculpture* magazine and other publications. Race and gender, the economy, the environment, global migration and technology are among issues and ideas she brings to the world's attention through her hybrid practice.

In 2011, Cathy launched the new arts media platform Fresh Art International. Her roving audio podcast engages at the center and fringe of art scenes across seven continents. Based in Miami since 2013, Fresh Art International is known for making contemporary art and culture accessible through podcasting. Cathy sparks conversations with today's emerging and established artists, curators, writers, designers and filmmakers at the center and fringe of creative communities, to witness, document and archive the voices and sounds of our complex cultural landscape.

**NOTE: The final calendar will be determined with students, in response to our collaborative plan for themes, research, field recordings and WVUM programming.**

**Jan—Introducing Themes and Resources**

15 UM: Intro to Course and Digital Tools; UM Special Collections; WUMV—tour station  
22 Public Library, Miami: The Vasari Project and other Special Collections, Robert Rauschenberg exhibition

29 UM: Lowe Museum—tour three exhibitions, meet artist/UM professor Xavier Cortado—art and the environment; meet Professor Dr. Harold R. Wanless—sea level rise and the impact on design

### **Feb — Navigating the City**

5 Miami Circle, with Nathaniel Sandler; The Underline, with Meg Daly  
12 UM: Commuter Biennial, with curators Laura Randall and Courtney Levine; Archival Feedback, with T. Wheeler Castillo and Emile Milgrim  
19 Little River/Little Haiti: Dimensions Variable—Miami Women’s Artist Archive with anti-archivist Anita Sharma and artist Charo Oquet; Little Haiti Cultural Complex with artists Carl Juste and Eduard Duval-Carrié  
26 UM: The psycho-geography of public transit with artists David McNalley and Terence Price

### **Mar—Connecting with Communities**

4 History Miami: artist Johanne Rahaman, *Modern Portrait of Black Florida*  
11 Spring Break  
18 Little Havana: Plusurbia-architect Juan Mullerat, Miami Public Space Challenge  
25 UM: architect Germane Barnes, *Spatializing Blackness*; artist GeoVanna Gonzalez, Supplemental Projects; artist Najja Moon, The BLCK Family

### **Apr—Delving into Culture Zones**

1 Allapattah: Rubell Museum, Jolt Radio, galleries  
8 UM: *Miami Motel Stories* playwright Juan C. Sanchez and Juggerknot Theater artistic director Tanya Bravo  
15 Miami Beach: The Wolfsonian-FIU – Yusef Merhi, digital collections; Frank Lucas, the history of technology; Misael Soto, City of Miami Beach Department of Reflection; The Bass – telling the story; Miami Beach Convention Center, tour of public art  
22 Architecture Tour: PAMM, Frost, Arsht; Freedom Tower/Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College; WLRN: Sundial Show  
29 Final Project Presentations