

Philosophy 322: Philosophy of the Arts

Spring 2012--Course Syllabus

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CRN: 35253
Time: TR 10:00-11:20
105 Esslinger

Course Description

We will examine five basic views about the nature of art and aesthetic experience that have been dominant in the Western philosophical tradition. These include conceptions of art as (1) imitation, (2) emotional expression and communication, (3) form, (4) institutionally-defined artifacts, and (5) consummation of human meaning and experience. Texts will range historically from the Greeks up through the 21st century. Examples of arts will be drawn from painting, sculpture, poetry, literature, architecture, and music.

Schedule of Readings

The reading selections are taken from the two required texts:

(1) A. Neill and A. Ridley, *The Philosophy of Art: Readings Ancient and Modern* (with page numbers for readings given in parentheses), available at the UO Bookstore.

(2) *The Course Reading Packet* (indicated as 'CP'), available at the Copy Shop on 13th Ave.

Below is a tentative list of readings for each class period. If any minor revisions of this schedule are required, they will be announced in class.

Wk. I

April 3 Introduction to the course

April 5 No class (Johnson away giving lectures)

Wk. II

April 10 Plato. *Ion*, *Republic* (7-17, 467-487).

Aristotle. *Poetics* (488-505).

April 12 Aristotle. *Poetics* (488-505).

Gardner. "Moral Fiction" (CP).

Wk. III

April 17 Ricoeur. "The Threefold Mimesis" (CP).

April 19 Examples of mimesis in art

[Essay #1 due]

Wk. IV

April 24 Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, Moment I (269-274).

April 26 Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, Moment II (275-280).

Wk. V

May 1 Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, Moment III (280-291).

May 3 Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, Moment IV (292-296).

Wk. VI

May 8 Wordsworth. *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads* (18-24).

Tolstoy. *What is Art?* (506-521).

[Essay #2 due]

May 10 Collingwood. *The Principles of Art* (117-152).

Wk. VII

May 15 Hanslick. *On the Musically Beautiful* (CP).

May 17 Hanslick. *On the Musically Beautiful* (CP).

Wk. VIII

May 22 Bell. "The Aesthetic Hypothesis" (98-110).

May 24 Weitz. "The Role of Theory in Esthetics" (183-192).

[Essay #3 due]

Wk. IX

May 29 Dickie. "The New Institutional Theory of Art" (213-223).

Danto. "The Artworld" (201-212).

May 31 Dewey. "Having an Experience" (59-75).

Wk. X

June 5 Johnson, "Dewey's Big Idea for Aesthetics" (CP).

June 7 Shusterman. "Art and Theory Between Experience and Practice" (CP).

Wk. XI

[Essay # 4 due June 12]

Assignments/Grading

Grades will be based on a series of four short essays (maximum of 5 double-spaced, typewritten pages) on topics selected by the instructor. There will be one essay for each of the four sections of the course. Your course grade will be based on the four essays plus a discussion grade, with each of these five components counting as one-fifth of your grade. Each fifth of the grade is based on a 25-point grading scale, for a total of 125 possible points. The essays are due on the following dates: (1) April 19; (2) May 8; (3) May 24; (4) June 12. All essays must be submitted both in hard copy and electronically via Safe Assign. Two-fifths of your discussion grade will be for attendance and three-fifths for the quantity and quality of your discussion participation. Plagiarism is a serious offense, subject to serious penalties, as specified in the UO code on academic dishonesty.