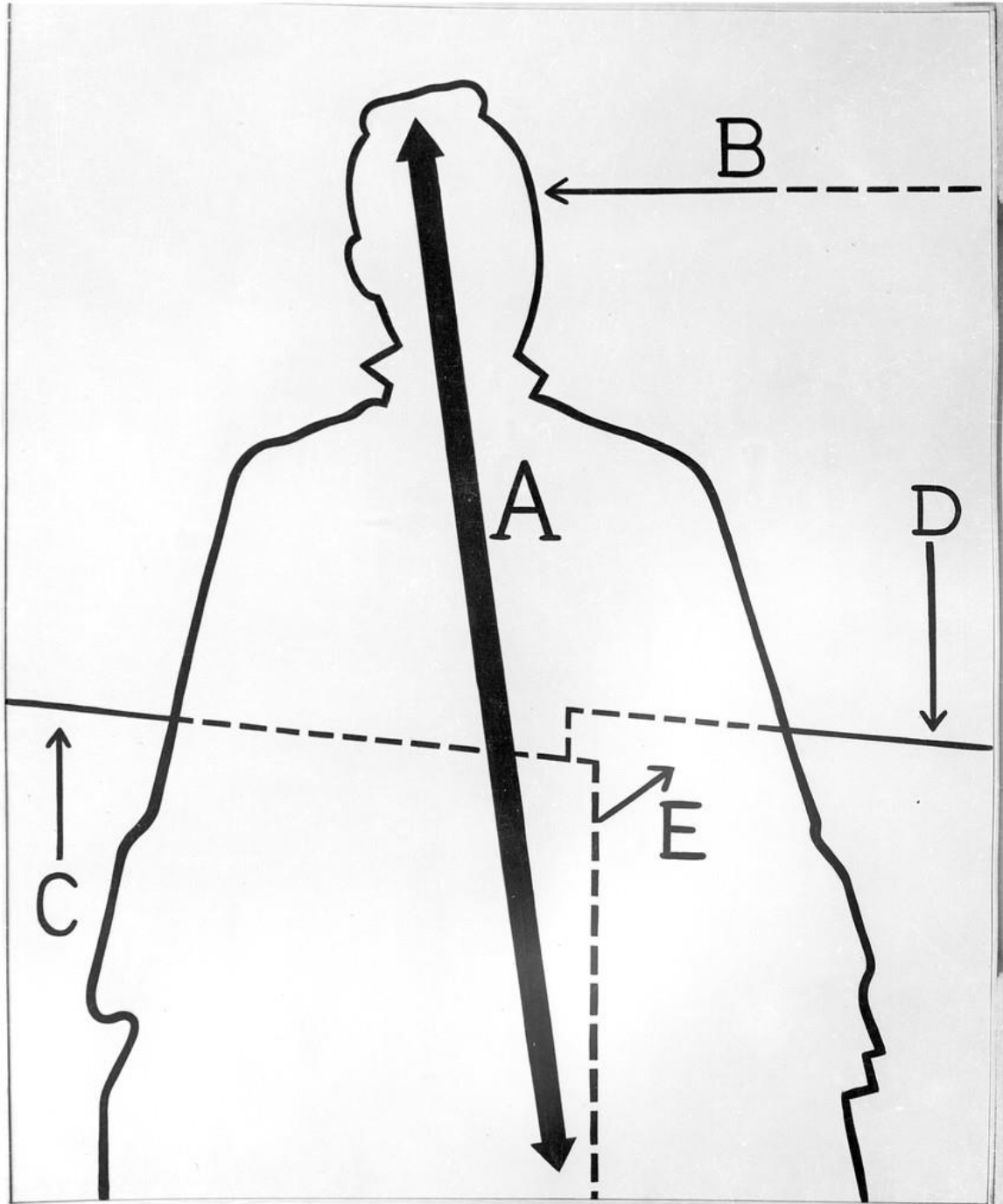


PHILOSOPHY 2131, FALL 2019

TUES./THRS. 11:00AM-12:20 PM

## INTRODUCTION TO AESTHETICS





In this course we will identify and explore those features of the works of art that differentiate them from merely decorative or entertaining objects. In other words, we will be raising the question of why engaging in artistic production and enjoying the works of art is somehow especially meaningful to our human lives. The course will be grouped around several main questions: (1) Do works of art have a special subject matter and is this subject matter an imitation or representation of the real world around us? (2) Is the formal

arrangement of the works of art and pleasure we take in them what constitutes their meaning? (3) Are the works of art an expression of our specific cultural and social practices? (4) How can we evaluate the works of art? Is it possible to have a universal agreement on whether a work of art is beautiful or not? (5) What makes some works of art special and original and can we have an artistic genius? (6) Can art be offensive morally but still beautiful? And, finally (7), is the mystery associated with artistic production and inspiration something that, in the age of technology and ready-mades, should belong to the past?

Instructor: Professor Lara Ostaric (lostaric@temple.edu)

Office: Anderson Hall 737

Office Hours: T 1:30PM-2:30 PM, R 2:30-3:30 PM, and by appointment

Required Texts (available through the bookstore):

1. Albert Hofstadter/Richard Kuhns, *Philosophies of Art and Beauty: Selected Readings in Aesthetics From Plato to Heidegger*, The University of Chicago Press, 1964. [HF]
2. Walter Benjamin, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, Prism Key Press, 2010.
3. Richard Wollheim, *Art and Its Objects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
4. David Hume, *Selected Essays*, Oxford World's Classics, Oxford University Press, 1996. [SE]
5. Leo Tolstoy, *What is Art?*, Hackett Publishing Company, 1996.

Required Texts (available on Canvas):

1. Noel Carroll, *Philosophy of Art: A Contemporary Introduction*, Ch. 1 "Art and Representation," New York: Routledge, 1999.
2. Noel Carroll, "Moderate Moralism," *British Journal of Aesthetics* 36.3, 1996.
3. Arturo Schwarz, *Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*, Delano Greenidge Editions, 1995.
4. William Wordsworth, "Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*"
5. Arthur Danto, "Metaphor, Expression, and Style," *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace*, Ch. 7, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1983.
6. Arthur Danto, "Three Decades After the End of Art," *After the End of Art: Contemporary Art and the Pale of History*, Ch. 2, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.
7. Nelson Goodman, "The Perfect Fake," *Languages of Art*, Hackett Publishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1976.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Papers (40%): You will be asked to write 2 papers, each approximately 5-6 pages in length (2000-2500 words), double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, standard margins. The paper should have a title, your name, date and the name of the instructor for this course. Each paper will be worth 20% of your total grade. You will submit your paper as *hard copies* in class on the day that the paper is due. Late papers will be penalized. I will be granting no extensions. Exceptions are medical and family emergencies.

(2) Final Exam (30%)

(3) In class and take-home quizzes (20%): all quizzes are pass/fail and their purpose is to test your preparation of the assigned readings. Take-home quizzes will consist of 5 questions and you will have to have answered 4 questions correctly in order to pass. In-class quizzes will not be announced. They will consist of 3 questions and in order to pass a quiz you will have to have answered 2 out of 3 questions correctly. At the end of the semester the final grade for this portion of the course requirement will be assigned.

(5) Attendance and Participation (10%): You are expected to come to class regularly, on time, prepared and ready for discussion. Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend for some legitimate reason (e.g. illness, family emergency) you must notify me before class. Excuses after the fact will not be accepted. You can have up to two unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence will negatively affect your participation grade and your final grade.

### Academic Integrity

It is expected that you comply with the rules of the academic honor code. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failing of this course and will be reported to the relevant academic authorities. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. If you are not sure what counts as plagiarism, please ask or consult your student handbook and/or follow this link to see Temple University's policy on academic honesty:

<http://bulletin.temple.edu/undergraduate/about-temple-university/student-responsibilities/#academichonesty>

### Disability Statement

This course is open to all students who met the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and

Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed via the following link:  
[http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy\\_no=03.70.02](http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02)

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

#### **I WHAT IS ART?**

- Week 1      08/27 Introduction: What is Art?  
              08/29 Tolstoy, *What is Art?*: 9-76, Ch.1-9.
- Week 2      09/03 Tolstoy, *What is Art?*: 76-130, Ch.10-13.  
              09/05 Tolstoy, *What is Art?*: 131-191, Ch.14-20.
- Week 3      09/10 Wollheim, *Art and Its Objects*: §§1-19 (pp. 1-34)  
              09/12 Wollheim, *Art and Its Objects*: §§ 20-35 (pp. 34-74)
- Week 4      09/17 Wollheim, *Art and Its Objects*: §§ 35-49 (pp. 74-114)

#### **II REPRESENTATION AND IMITATION**

- 09/19 Plato, *The Republic*, Book X [HF,  
              30-45]; Aristotle, *The Poetics* [HF, 97-125]
- Week 5      09/24 Noël Carroll, *Philosophy of Art*  
              [e-reserve]

#### **III BEAUTY AND FORM**

- 09/26 Shaftesbury, *Characteristics of Men, Manners,  
              Opinions, Times* [HF, 241-266]
- Week 6      10/01 Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* [HF,  
              280-286, 296-30];  
              1<sup>st</sup> TAKE-HOME QUIZ DUE.
- 10/03 Marcel Duchamp, Interview with J.J. Sweeney  
              (in: Arturo Schwarz, *Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*)  
              [e-reserve]

#### **IV ART AND EXPRESSION**

- Week 7      10/08 Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*  
              [e-reserve]
- 10/10 Hegel, *Aesthetics: Lectures on Fine Art* [HF,  
              382-395; 400-401; 425-437];  
              2<sup>nd</sup> TAKE-HOME QUIZ DUE.

- Week 8      10/15 Danto, *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace* [e-reserve]
- V EVALUATING ART**
- 10/17 Hume, *Of the Standard of Taste* [SE, 133-154]  
FIRST PAPER DUE
- Week 9      10/22 Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* [HF, 286-296, 301-304]  
3<sup>rd</sup> TAKE-HOME QUIZ DUE
- VI GENIUS AND ORIGINALITY**
- 10/24 Plato, *The Ion* and the *Phaedrus*  
[selections, HF, 53-67]
- Week 10     10/29 “Pollock” (film projection and discussion)
- 10/31 Kant, *Critique of Judgment* [HF, 313-323]  
4<sup>th</sup> TAKE-HOME QUIZ DUE
- Week 11     11/05 Nelson Goodman, *Languages of Art*  
[e-reserve]
- VII ART AND MORALITY**
- 11/07 Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* [HF, 498-530];  
5<sup>th</sup> TAKE-HOME QUIZ DUE
- Week 12     11/12 Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* [HF, 530-554]  
11/14 Leni Riefenstahl’s “Triumph of the Will” (film projection and discussion)
- Week 13     11/19 N. Carroll, “Moderate Moralism” [e-reserve]
- VIII THE END OF ART**
- 11/21 Walter Benjamin: 9-47; Scenes from Eisenstein’s “Battleship Potemkin”  
SECOND PAPER DUE
- Week 14     11/26 FALL BREAK  
11/28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15      12/03   A. Danto: *After the End of Art* [e-reserve]

12/05   REVIEW SESSION

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 10:30AM-12:30**