

Date prepared: 8/18/15
Syllabus
University of New Orleans
Dept. of Philosophy

PHIL 4250: Philosophy of Art (3 credits)

SECTION 001: LA 236, Tue. & Thur. 11:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Robert Stufflebeam
Office: UNO: LA 385
Office Hours: M-T-W-R 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (and by appointment)
Phone & Voicemail: W: (504) 280-7473
Email: rstuffle@uno.edu (add 'PHIL 4250' to subject line)
Course Webpage: [Moodle](#) login page

Required Texts

- [1] T. E. Wartenberg (2012). **The nature of art: An anthology**. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN 978-1-111-18652-4. [W]
- [2] G. Dickie (1997). **Introduction to aesthetics: An analytic approach**. Oxford: Oxford. ISBN 0-19-511304-7. [D]
- [3] A. C. Danto (1981). **The transfiguration of the commonplace**. Cambridge, MA: Harvard. ISBN 0-674-90346-3. [T]

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A critical inquiry into the nature of artistic production, performance, enjoyment, and evaluation. What is art? How does the concept apply to music, literature, painting, sculpture, architecture, dance, theater? What is the “aesthetic” experience? These and other questions will be explored through discussion of relevant readings and examples.

COURSE OVERVIEW: *Aesthetics* is the subfield of philosophy concerned with fundamental questions about the nature of art. There are many such questions:

- What is the nature of art?
- What feature(s) must “something” possess in order to be an artwork?
- Must art capture beauty, represent something, convey emotion, give pleasure, reveal truth, transform the mundane, or is art for art's sake alone what matters?
- What or who determines what an artwork represents? The artist? The community?
- What constitutes “good” art?
- What is the nature of the aesthetic experience?
- Should there be limits on artistic expression?

Although all of these questions (and others) will be addressed, the central question in this course is the first one. Answering it requires defending what one takes to be the “essence” of art. By defending their own views on the subject, many philosophers (and others) have significantly influenced the way art is approached and understood (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Goodman, Danto, etc.). Through critically examining such writings, through viewing and listening to art from different media, and through critical discussions (both in class and online), each student will be expected to defend their own views; that is, to *DO* aesthetics, not just to study it.

Learning Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to know the fundamental questions associated with art and its evaluation
- to understand the views of Plato, Aristotle, ..., Danto, Dickie, regarding the nature of art and interpretation
- to understand the nature of aesthetics and aesthetic value
- to understand the four problems in aesthetics
- to understand the imitation theory of art, the realist theory of art, etc., and to know who holds which view
- to understand the nature of the artworld
- to read philosophical texts
- to recognize metaphysical issues
- to lead philosophical discussions
- to present and to defend your own views both orally and in writing regarding the nature of art and its evaluation

Grades

Grades will be based on a cumulative 100 point scale distributed as follows:

Assignment		Final grade	
Participation	(10%) 10 points	A	100 – 89.5 points
One-minute args.	(10%) 10 points	B	89.4 – 79.5 points
Presentation 1	(10%) 10 points	C	79.4 – 69.5 points
Presentation 2	(10%) 10 points	D	69.4 – 59.5 points
Presentation 3	(20%) 20 points	F	59.4 — 0 points
Exam 1	(20%) 20 points		
Exam 2	(20%) 20 points		

Course Requirements

PARTICIPATION: You are required to do more than merely to attend class. You are required to be prepared and to participate. Doing these things requires **READING THE MATERIAL PRIOR TO CLASS**, coming to each class, **AND** speaking in class. Your participation is worth **10%** of your final grade. Its value will be based on your attendance, preparedness, and both the quantity and quality of your in-class contributions.

ONE-MINUTE ARGUMENTS: At the end of most classes I shall post a question in the one minute argument forums section on Moodle. Your responses to those questions (and to the responses of other students) will allow you become engaged with the material/issues covered in class. Each student must post a response to these questions. Each response should be posted within 48 hours. Consider your responses to be "one-minute arguments." What that means is you will need to make a claim, give some evidence in support of that claim, and it should take me about 1 minute to read it. After posting your response, you may then post a response to someone else's response, continuing the discussion. Your one-minute arguments are worth **10%** of your final grade.

PRESENTATIONS: Each student is required to give **3** presentations. The first is a 5 min. introduction to a piece of art (where you introduce a piece, the artist, and then say why you like it) (**10%**). The second is an outline of the required reading(s) for one class meeting and where you serve as discussion leader for that day (**10%**). The third (at the end of the semester) is a 15 min. presentation where you introduce another work of art, summarize the views of two (opposing) theorists on the nature of art, and then defend how you feel the piece you introduced should be evaluated (**20%**). Presentations must be completed and submitted in accordance with the guidelines on Moodle. The presentations are worth **40%** of your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be **2** take home essay exams, each covering about half of the course material. The second exam will not be cumulative. Exams must be completed and submitted in accordance with the guidelines on Moodle. The exams are worth **40%** of your final grade.

What follows are my class policies. If for any reason you are unable to abide by these policies, you should withdraw from my course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic honesty is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

ATTENDANCE: Your attendance is required. Classes begin on time. Do NOT stroll in late. And if you know that you must leave class early, let me know. You may miss two classes without penalty. For each subsequent absence, your participation grade will be penalized one letter.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT/ SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Feel free to say anything to me or to your peers, but tailor your remarks so as not to be uncivil, abusive, or inappropriate. I will not tolerate ANY abusive behavior, so do not engage in any personal attacks or name-calling. (See my 'warning' below.)

COMPUTERS/PADS: You may use a computer or pad in class, but you may NOT check email, Facebook, etc. during class. If you do, you will lose the privilege of using your device.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

INCOMPLETES: Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.

LATE-STARTS: There are no special dispensations for late-start students.

LATE WORK: If you fail to show up for your assigned presentation, you will receive a 0 on the assignment. If an exam is submitted late, it will be penalized a letter grade for each day it is late. Failing to complete assignments by the time I turn in grades will result in your receiving a '0' for those assignments, not an incomplete.

MAKE-UPS: Since the exams will be take-home, there will be make-up exams.

PHONES: Distracting interruptions are inconsiderate, disrespectful, and time wasting. Phones should be turned off before class begins.

WITHDRAWALS: You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Withdrawal is strictly up to you and none of my business. Look at the last page of this syllabus for the last day to withdraw without a penalty — a 'W' appearing on your transcript.

WARNING! *Doing philosophy requires a willingness to think critically. Critical thinking does not consist in merely making claims. Rather, it requires offering reasons/evidence in support of your claims. It also requires your willingness to entertain criticism from others who do not share your assumptions. You will be required to do philosophy in this class. Doing philosophy can be hazardous to your cherished beliefs. Consequently, if you are unwilling to participate, to subject your views to critical analysis, to explore issues that cannot be resolved empirically, or to use computers, then my course is not for you.*

PHIL 4250/5250 Game Plan

(subject to revision)

DATE	TOPIC	READ	
		1 st ed.	3 rd ed.
(1) Th Aug. 20	Welcome		
(2) T Aug. 25	Philosophy? Of art?	W : xi –xxiii D: 3-5	W : 1-12 D: 3-5
(3) Th Aug. 27	Metaphysics & Logic 101	Selection from my logic book.	
(4) T Sep. 01			
(5) Th Sep. 03	Plato	W: 1-13 D: 44-46	W: 13-24 D: 44-46
(6) T Sep. 08	Aristotle	W: 14-28 D: 46-48	W: 25-37 D: 46-48
(7) Th Sep. 10	Hume	W: 38-47 D: (8-16), 16-18	W: 38-46 D: (8-16), 16-18
(8) T Sep. 15	Kant	W: 48-63 D: (18-20), 20-25	W: 47-61 D: (18-20), 20-25
(9) Th Sep. 17	Schopenhauer	W: 64-72 D: 25-27	W: 62-70 D: 25-27
(10) T Sep. 22	Hegel	W: 73-84	W: 71-80
(11) Th Sep. 24	Nietzsche	W: 85-97 D: 48-51	W: 81-97 D: 48-51
(12) T Sep. 29	Tolstoy	W: 98-106 D: 49-50	W: 98-105 D: 49-50
(13) Th Oct. 01	Movie		
(14) T Oct. 06	Exam 1 due		
(15) Th Oct. 08	Four problems in Aesthetics	D: 95-124	D: 95-124
(16) T Oct. 13	Four problems in Aesthetics	D: 95-124	D: 95-124
Th Oct. 15	MID-SEMESTER BREAK NO CLASS		
(17) T Oct. 20	Evaluation of Art	D: 125-141	D: 125-141
(18) Th Oct. 22	Bell	W: 115-124 D: 52-58	W: 113-120 D: 52-58
(19) T Oct. 27	Collingwood	W: 125-136 D: 62-69	W: 121-132 D: 62-69
(20) Th Oct. 29	Goodman	W: 199-208 D: 152-156	W: 187-196 D: 152-156
(21) T Nov. 03	Danto	W: 209-223 D: 78-81	W: 204-216 D: 78-81
(22) Th Nov. 05	Danto	T: Chs. 1-3	T: Chs. 1-3
(23) T Nov. 10	Danto	T: Chs. 4-5	T: Chs. 4-5
(24) Th Nov. 12	Dickie	W: 224-231	W: 217-225
(25) T Nov. 17	Dickie	D: 82-93; 157-165	D: 82-93; 157-165
(26) Th Nov. 19	15 Minute Presentations		
(27) T Nov. 24	15 Minute Presentations		
Th Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS		
(28) T Dec. 01	15 Minute Presentations		
(29) Th Dec. 03	15 Minute Presentations		
T Dec. 08	Exam 2 due (12:00 p.m.); 5250: Essay due		

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee..... 08/18/2015
 Semester Classes Begin 08/19/2015
 Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,
 or withdraw with 100% refund..... 08/25/2015
 Last day to apply for December commencement
 09/25/2015
 Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015
 Mid-semester examinations 10/05-10/09/2015
 Final examinations 12/07-12/11/2015
 Commencement 12/18/2015
 *Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B
 sessions, and for items not listed here:
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day 09/07/2015
 Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015
 Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>