Professor Elisabeth Camp *Office:* 426 Logan Hall *Office Hours:* Wednesday 2-4 and by appointment *Email:* campe@sas.upenn.edu TA: Kathleen Robel: krobel@sas.upenn.edu; sections Fridays 10 & 11

Assigned texts: *Puzzles about Art*, at the Penn Bookstore. Coursepack, at Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut Street. All handouts, including paper topics, will be available on the Blackboard course website.

Course Description:

This course will investigate what art is and what role it plays in our lives. Is there a distinctive quality or function which all works of art possess and which makes them art? Do they have a distinctive kind of meaning? What determines an artwork's meaning? Can it be expressed in other terms? Why do we care about an artwork's originality and authenticity? How should we evaluate art? Can it make us better or worse people?

In asking these questions, it's important that we test our views against actual works of art. I'll frequently bring (reproductions of) artworks to class, and I encourage you to as well. I may assign a trip to the Art Museum, and your papers will ask you to apply the theories we've been discussing to specific works of art.

Course Requirements:

- Two short papers, 4-5 pages (25% of course grade).
- A final paper, 7-8 pages (35% of course grade).
- Attendance and participation in lecture and section (15% of course grade).
- Daily readings: you should do the assigned reading *before* class. Always bring the coursepack to class, since we'll often be examining the text in some detail.

I will also post study questions on the course web site at the beginning of each week. These questions are not assigned, but they should help to guide you through the readings, and they'll give you some sense for where the discussion will be heading. If you must miss either lecture or discussion, you'll be expected to make up the absence by writing a short response (less than a page) to a question about the material we discussed that day.

Except in extreme conditions, extensions on papers must be granted well before the due date, and only at our discretion; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by Penn's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html.

Some useful online resources for philosophy and art: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: http://plato.stanford.edu American Society for Aesthetics: http://www.aesthetics-online.org ArtLex (a dictionary of art): http://www.artlex.com/ ARTstor (a database of visual images): http://www.artstor.org

Schedule of Topics and Readings (subject to revision)

Wed 9/6: Introduction

What is art? What does it do?

Mimesis and catharsis		
Mon 9/11	Puzzles about Art ch. 1	
	Plato: Republic II, III, X (excerpts)	
	Aristotle: <i>Poetics</i> §§1-15 (excerpts)	
Expression and Inspiration		
Wed 9/13	Plato: Ion (excerpt)	
	Shelley: "A Defense of Poetry" (excerpt)	
	Tolstoy: What is Art? chs. 4, 5, 15	
Pleasure		
Mon 9/18	Bentham: The Rationale of Reward Bk. III, Ch. 1	
Wed 9/20	Kant: Critique of Judgment §§1-22, 41-46	
Essential and Relational Definitions of Art		
Mon 9/25	Weitz: "The Role of Theory in Aesthetics"	
	Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations, §§65-75	
Wed 9/27	Danto: "The Artworld"	
Mon 10/2	Beardsley: "An Aesthetic Definition of Art"	
	Graves: "Art and the Zen Master's Tea Pot"	
First paper topics handed out		

How does art get its meaning?

The Intentional H	Fallacy and Reader Response
Wed 10/4	Puzzles about Art ch. 3
	Wimsatt and Beardsley: "The Intentional Fallacy"
	Fish: "Is There a Text in This Class?"
The Return of Int	tentionalism
Mon 10/9	Hirsch: "In Defense of the Author"
	Danto: Transfiguration of the Commonplace, pp. 1-3
Fir	st papers due
Tradition, Origin	ality, and Authenticity
Wed 10/11	Puzzles about Art ch. 4
	Kant: Critique of Judgment §§46-50
Mon 10/16	Eliot: "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
	Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical
	Reproduction" (excerpt)
	Borges: "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote"
Wed 10/18	Goodman: "Art and Authenticity"
	Lessing: "What is Wrong with a Forgery?"
Mon 10/23	NO CLASS
Wed 10/25	Taruskin: "The Modern Sound of Early Music"
	Sharpe: "Authenticity Again"

What is the meaning of art?

Formalism and 1	Materialism	
Mon 10/30	Bell: "The Aesthetic Hypothesis"	
	Greenberg: "Modernist Painting"	
Art as Idea		
Wed 11/1	Collingwood: Principles of Art ch. 2 & 7	
	LeWitt: "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art"	
Meaning and Mea	dium	
Mon 11/6	Dewey: "Experience and Expression"	
	Bosanquet: "The Importance of the Medium"	
Wed 11/8	Brooks: "The Heresy of Paraphrase"	
	Levinson: "Messages in Art"	
Second paper topics handed out		

What determines the value of art?

nun uerer minie	
Mon 11/13	Puzzles about Art ch. 5
	Hume: "On the Standard of Taste"
Wed 11/15	Kant: Critique of Judgment §§30-40
Do an artwork	k's moral qualities affect its aesthetic value?
Mon 11/20	Wilde: "The Decay of Lying"
	Devereaux: "Beauty and Evil: Reifenstahl's Triumph of the Will"
S	Screening of Triumph of the Will outside class time
Can art make	us better — or worse?
Wed 11/22	Nussbaum: "Literature and the Moral Imagination"; excerpt from Intro
	Nehamas: "Plato and the Mass Media"
S	Second papers due
Who and Wha	t Determines Aesthetic Value?
Mon 11/27	Puzzles about Art ch. 6
	Babbitt: "Who Cares if You Listen?"
	Cohen: "High and Low Art and High and Low Audiences"
Wed 11/29	Sibley: "Aesthetic Concepts"
Mon 12/4	Savile: "The Test of Time"
	Walton: "How Marvelous! Toward a Theory of Aesthetic Value"
Wed 12/6	Review and Conclusion
I	Final Paper Topics Handed Out
Fri 12/15 I	Final Paper Due