

Professor Elisabeth Camp

Office: 426 Logan Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30, Wednesdays 12-1, and by appointment

Email: campe@sas.upenn.edu

TAs: Krisanna Scheiter, scheiter@sas.upenn.edu

Marcy Latta, mlatta@sas.upenn.edu

Texts: Coursepack, at Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut Street.

Puzzles about Art, at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street.

All handouts, including paper topics, will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description:

This course will investigate what art is and what role it plays in our lives. Is there some distinctive quality or function that all works of art have, which makes them art? Do works of art have a distinctive kind of meaning, which cannot be expressed in other terms? What criteria should we use in evaluating art: should art be beautiful, original, or morally uplifting?

In asking these questions, it's important that we test our answers on actual artworks, so you should spend as much free time with art as possible. Your first writing assignment will require you to visit the Art Museum, and your other papers will ask you to apply the theories we've been discussing to specific works of art.

Course Requirements:

- One short writing assignment, 2 pages (5% of total course grade).
- Two short papers, 4-5 pages (25% each of course grade).
- A final paper, 7-8 pages (35% of course grade).
- Attendance and participation in lecture and section (10% of course grade).
- Daily readings: you should do the assigned reading *before* class.

Always bring the coursepack to class.

I will also post study questions on Blackboard at the beginning of each week. They are intended to help guide you through the readings, and they'll give you some sense for where we'll be heading. You will be expected to post a response to one of these questions on the Blackboard discussion board before section each week.

In addition, if you must miss either lecture or discussion, you should make up the absence by writing a short response (less than a page) to a question about the material 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: check Blackboard for updates)

Wed 9/5 Introduction

What is art? What does it do?

[read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 1]

Mimesis and catharsis

****FRI 9/7**** Plato: *Republic* II, III, X (excerpts)

Aristotle: *Poetics* §§4-7 (excerpts)

****NOTE: NO CLASS** Mon 9/10 and Wed 9/12; *visit Art Museum instead*

Fri 9/14 **Writing assignment due in section**

Mon 9/17 Plato and Aristotle cont'd

Expression and inspiration

Wed 9/19 Plato: *Ion* (excerpt)

Shelley: "A Defense of Poetry" (excerpt)

Wordsworth: "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"

Varieties of pleasure

Mon 9/24 Kant: *Critique of Judgment* §§1-9, 14-16, 19-22, 43-45

Wed 9/26 Kant cont'd

Anti-essentialist definitions of art

Mon 10/1 Weitz: "The Role of Theory in Aesthetics"

Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations*, §§65-75

Wed 10/3 Danto: "The Artworld"

Mon 10/8 Danto cont'd

First paper topics handed out

'Where' is art? What kind of meaning does it have?

[read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 3]

Formalism and materialism

Wed 10/10 Bell: "The Aesthetic Hypothesis"

Kandinsky: "Reminiscences", Malevich: "Suprematism" (excerpts)

Greenberg: "Modernist Painting"

Mon 10/15 NO CLASS

Art as idea

Wed 10/17 Collingwood: *Principles of Art* ch. 2 & 7

LeWitt: "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art"

Jamieson: "The Importance of Being Conceptual"

Vogel: "Swimming with Famous Dead Sharks" (handout)

First papers due

Medium and Meaning

- Mon 10/22 Dewey: "Experience and Expression"
 Bosanquet: "The Importance of the Medium"
- Wed 10/24 Brooks: "The Heresy of Paraphrase"
 Levinson: "Messages in Art"
 Ice-T: "High Rollers"

What determines aesthetic value?

[read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 2]

Whose judgment matters?

- Mon 10/29 Hume: "On the Standard of Taste"
- Wed 10/31 Kant: *Critique of Judgment* §§32-42
- Mon 11/5 Babbitt: "Who Cares if You Listen?"
 Tolstoy: *What is Art?* chs. 4-9; pp. 93-99; chs. 14-16; pp. 189-191
 Weingarten: "Pearls Before Breakfast" (on Blackboard)

Second paper topics handed out*Does morality matter?*

- Wed 11/7 Gaut: "The Ethical Criticism of Art"
 [read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 5]

Watch *A Clockwork Orange* (outside of class)

- Mon 11/12 Nussbaum: "Fancy"
- Wed 11/14 Kieran: "Forbidden Knowledge"

Does originality matter?

- Mon 11/19 Kant: *Critique of Judgment* §§46-50
 Eliot: "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
 Borges: "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote"
 [read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 4]

Second papers due

- Wed 11/21 Goodman: "Art and Authenticity"
 Lessing: "What is Wrong with a Forgery?"
 Russell: "As Long as Men Make Art, the Artful Fake will be with Us"
 (on Blackboard)
- Mon 11/26 Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
 (excerpt)
 Nichols: "The Work of Culture in the Age of Cybernetic Systems"
 Tompkins: "The Turnaround Artist" (handout)

Why do we care about aesthetic judgment and criticism?

- Wed 11/28 Nehamas: "Essay on Beauty and Judgment"
 Harrison: "Some Uses of 'Good' in Criticism"
 [read: *Puzzles about Art* ch. 6]
- Mon 12/3 Walton: "How Marvelous! Toward a Theory of Aesthetic Value"
- Wed 12/5 *Review and Conclusion*

Final Paper Topics Handed Out

Fri 12/14 **Final Paper Due**