



PHIL 2040-03 – Introduction to Aesthetics (CRN: 26566)
Course Syllabus – Spring 2013

Credit Hours: 3.0 semester credit hours (3-0-3)

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Catalog Description: An introduction to the philosophical questions "What do you mean?" and "How do you know?" in the realm of aesthetics, most particularly in the arts. Through readings and discussions of representative philosophical texts and with close attention to aesthetic objects themselves, questions such as the following will be examined: What is artistic expression? What do works of art mean? Is there a general definition of art? What makes a work of art good? Critical thinking and communication skills are emphasized.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites: ENGL 1102 with a minimum US grade of C; or ENGL 102 with a minimum UG grade of C; or ENGL 112 with a minimum UG grade of C.

Computer Requirement: Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm>.

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™ or Outlook Express™
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers: Student computers will not be used in the classroom in this course. Computers will be required to access course materials, communicate with your instructor, and participate in classroom research activities.

General education outcomes: The following links provide tabular descriptions of the communications outcome and the critical thinking outcome components (see PHIL 2040 in the tables):

- [Communications Outcomes](#)
- [Critical Thinking Outcomes](#)

Course Learning Outcomes: (1) To familiarize students with aesthetics. (2) To enhance communication skills, oral and written. (3) To teach analysis of complex concepts, ideas, definitions, and arguments.

Instructor Information:

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 Office: Arts and Sciences Building, Room 105-J

Office hours: MW 3:30pm – 4:30pm ; TH 4:30pm – 6:30pm (please contact for a specific appointment).

Classrooms and Meeting Times:

James Baker University Center – U268, TR 9:50 am – 11:05 am.

Mailing List: PHIL2040-03Spring13@lists.clayton.edu

Note: this e-mail address sends mail to everyone registered for this class. To e-mail the instructor personally, please use BenjaminBuckley@mail.clayton.edu

Text: *Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology*, Cahn and Meskin, Blackwell Publishing

Text Coverage: Selected Readings (see below)

Evaluation

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Term Paper	20%
Interesting Things	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading:

A	90 - 100%
B	80 – 89.5%
C	70 – 79.5%
D	60 – 69.5%
F	below 60%

Requirements Explained:

1. Interesting Things: As the student reads the essays assigned to this course, s/he should note 3 to 4 things s/he found interesting, and why. Interesting Things need to be brought to class on the assigned day, as they will form part of the discussion of that day’s class. No late assignments are accepted; however, there will be more I.T.s assigned than necessary to meet the point requirement for an A.

2. Argument paper: This is a four to six page paper, on an aesthetical topic of the student’s choice. Possible topics include “what is art,” “what is beauty,” “what is the role of art in society.” Students must have their paper topic approved in advance.

3. Exams: All three exams will be equally weighted, and will each cover a third of the material of the course. The exams will be short answer and essay, and will be taken in-class. The final exam must be taken. Study guides will be given before each exam.

Mid-term Progress Report: The mid-term grade, which will reflect approximately 25% of the points possible in this course, will be issued by February 25th. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, by March 1st.

General Policy: Students must abide by policies in the [Clayton State University Student Handbook](#), and the Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities.

University Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their **courses**. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected for all class periods. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for material covered in that class, including any new deadlines or assignments. For this reason, if you are absent, contact your instructor to find out what you missed.

Disruption of the Learning Environment: Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at: <http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm>.

Academic Dishonesty: Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. **Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's words or ideas in your presentation or writing without giving that person credit. Even paraphrase is plagiarism if you do not properly cite your source.** All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved, and will be reported to the Office of Student Life/Judicial Affairs. Judicial procedures are described at: <http://www.clayton.edu/student-conduct/home/>.

Missed Work: Without an excuse, missed work cannot be submitted. An excuse for missed work must be accompanied with documentation from a doctor or other competent authority that explains why the student was unable to submit the assignment on time. With a valid excuse:

- There is no make-up for interesting things assignments.
- Make-up exams must be taken within 4 calendar days of the original exam; the make-up will be different from the in-class exam.
- Make-up papers must be submitted by the deadline set by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to refuse to accept late papers, or to accept them for only partial credit.

Other Policies: The use of laptops and cell phones within class is forbidden. Students are expected to come to class prepared, attentive, and participating only in the business of the class – no newspapers, homework from other classes, e-mail, or other distracting behavior will be permitted. Leaving the classroom during classtime is expected to occur only in the case of an emergency. During exams and quizzes, students may not use or look at cell phones, books, notes, or other students’ work; students may not leave the classroom except in the case of emergency. Desks must be clear of anything not necessary to take the exam.

Readings and Important Dates

Note: this is a tentative schedule; it may change as we go through the semester. Changes will be announced as far in advance as possible.

Week	Readings	Dates to Remember
January 7 – 11	What is philosophy? What is art? Plato’s <i>Republic</i> , Book X, pp. 24-33	
Jan 14 – 18	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> , cont.	
Jan 21 – 25	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> , 41-56	No Class, Monday, Jan 21st Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 28 – February 1	Aristotle, continued	
February 4 – 8	Hume, <i>Of the Standard of Taste</i> , pp. 103-112	
February 11 – 15	Tolstoy, <i>What is Art?</i> , pp. 233-242	Tuesday, February 12 th , Exam 1
February 18 – 22	Tolstoy, continued Collingwood, <i>The Principles of Art</i> , 282 – 295	
February 25 – March 1	Collingwood, continued	March 1 st – Last day to drop
March 4 – 8	Spring Break	
March 11 – 15	Langer, <i>Feeling and Form</i> , 317-326	
March 18 – 22	Langer, continued	Thursday, March 20 th , Exam 2
March 25 – 29	Weitz, <i>The Role of Theory in Aesthetics</i> , 409 - 415.	
April 1 – 5	Weitz, continued.	
April 8 – 12	Danto, <i>The Artworld</i> , 417-425	Thursday, April 11 th , Term Paper Due
April 15 – 19	Levinson, <i>What a Musical Work Is</i> , 477 – 493	
April 22-26	Kivy, <i>Emotions in the Music</i> , 628-636	
April 29	Last day of classes	
April 30 – May 6	Final Exam Week	Final: Tuesday, April 30 th , 10:15am – 12:15pm