

## Introduction to Aesthetics

PHIL 2040 Online

Fall 2016

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

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**Office:** A&S 105 I

**Office Hours:** Held via Email

**Course Websites:**

Desire2Learn: <https://clayton2.view.usg.edu/>

Faculty Webpage: <http://faculty.clayton.edu/tjanke>

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

**Introduction:** In this course we will study a body of interconnected writings on philosophical issues concerning aesthetics ranging across a variety of continents and cultures and dating back to the fifth century BC. These writings are seminal to the liberal arts tradition and have wide reaching. This course is run entirely online, with asynchronous, virtual discussions, and mini lectures via [D2L](#) each week (see below for dates and details). In addition to our online discussions, you will have access to a variety of other online resources to assist you in grasping the material. I will respond within 24 hours to any email received at [toddjanke@clayton.edu](mailto:toddjanke@clayton.edu) M-F and within 48 hours to any email received over the weekend. For more information, please visit both my [Faculty Webpage](#) and our [Desire2Learn](#) (D2L) course site.

**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.

### Program Learning Outcomes:

**General education outcomes:** The following link provides the Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Area C): [http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core\\_curriculum\\_outcomes\\_clayton.pdf](http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core_curriculum_outcomes_clayton.pdf)

**Philosophy Outcomes:** Phil 2040 is a required course in the Philosophy B.A. degree, and for the Philosophy Minor.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** (1) To familiarize students with the theory & history of ethics, and with analyses of contemporary ethical issues. (2) To enhance communication skills, oral and written. (3) To teach analysis of complex concepts, ideas, definitions, and arguments.

**Course Format:** This is a fully online course, with the majority of class activity hosted on [D2L](#)

### D2L

On [D2L](#) you will find this course syllabus and lesson modules and access to our forums. The modules contain assignments and resources indexed to the syllabus. You can gain access to [D2L](#) by following this link or signing on to the [SWAN](#) portal and selecting 'GaVIEW' on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties with [D2L](#), please email or call The HUB at [TheHub@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:TheHub@mail.clayton.edu) or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your [SWAN](#) username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:** Learning Support students who are required to take ENGL 0099 and/or READ 0099 must exit the requirements before they can enroll in this course

**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; Able to use D2L.

**In Class Use of Student Notebook Computers:** Student notebook computers will not be used in the classroom in this course. Computers will be required to access course materials and to communicate with your instructor.

**GeorgiaVIEW Desire2Learn (Online Classroom):**

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: D2L on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

**Texts:** Our text is available in the campus bookstore: <http://www.clayton.edu/auxiliaries/thelochshop>. Alternately, you may purchase your book online. If you purchase your book online, be sure to shop using the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) that I have provided. Most online bookstores such as Amazon can be searched by pasting this number into the search field.

*Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology*, Cahn and Meskin, eds. ISBN-10: 1405154357; ISBN-13: 978-1405154352

**Text Coverage:**

Selected Readings (see below)

**Evaluation:**

First Exam	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final examination	30%
1 <sup>st</sup> Homework	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Homework	10%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Homework	10%

**Grading:**

A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	below 60%

**I do not offer extra credit under any circumstances**

NOTE: This course requires consistent reading, reflection, and writing. If you do not want to take the time to do these things, drop the course. Students who do not keep up with the reading and response/commentary postings do not do well in this course.

## Requirements Explained

**1. Homework Reading Responses** – Brief reading responses (200 words) the reading listed in the syllabus for a given week, submitted to the appropriate D2L discussion forum by Thursday of each week, excluding the first week. For example, by 11:59 pm on 8/25 you will submit a response on Plato. Your reading response may be either (1), a report in your own words of what the author is saying in the selection, ending with personal comment or criticism, or (2) an analysis based on your own formulation of an issue addressed in or posed by the reading. The grade for your responses will be determined by the clarity of your expression of an issue and your substantive attempt to come to grips with it. You will not be graded based on the correctness of your response, only on your effort in making it.

*Note: I will enter grades for Homework at the time of the Exams.*

**2. Discussion Comments** – In addition to submitting your own reading response each week, you are expected to read responses submitted by your classmates and to comment each week on 2 of their submitted responses. Comments should be 50-100 words and engage the substance of the paper being commented on. Comments which show no indication of the commenter having read the original response (e.g. “Hey, really nice job, I liked the way you said that”), while they may be nice, will receive no credit. Discussion comments must be submitted to the appropriate D2L discussion forum by Sunday of each week, excepting the first week of class. For example, by 11:59 pm on 8/28 you must have submitted comments on one of your classmates’ Plato responses.

**3. Exams:** All three exams will be a mix of multiple choice, and matching. None of the exams are cumulative.

**Mid-term Progress Report:** The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by October 4, reflects approximately 30% of the entire course grade. 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 mid-term, which occurs on October 7. The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, October 7.

## Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week	Reading	Dates to Remember
8.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> </ul>	
8.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plato, Republic, Bk. X (pp. 24-33)</li> </ul>	
8.29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aristotle, Poetics, 1451b-1454a, (pp. 46-49)</li> </ul>	
9.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hutcheson, <i>An Inquiry into the Original ...</i>(pp. 87-91)</li> </ul>	
9.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hume, <i>Of the Standard of Taste</i>, (pp. 103-112)</li> </ul>	
9.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Exam 9.21</b></li> </ul>	<b>First Exam 9.21</b>
9.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kant, <i>Critique of Judgement</i>, I-IX, (pp. 131-138)</li> </ul>	
10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nietzsche, <i>Birth of Tragedy</i>,(pp. 222-232)</li> </ul>	<b>Last Day for “W” 10.7</b>
10.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tolstoy, <i>What is Art?</i>, pp. (233-242)</li> </ul>	
10.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dewey, <i>Art as Experience</i>, (pp. 296-316)</li> </ul>	

10.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Second Exam 10.6</b></li> </ul>	<b>Second Exam 10.26</b>
10.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heidegger, <i>Origin of the Work of Art</i>, (pp. 344-357)</li> </ul>	
11.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weitz, <i>The Role of Theory in Aesthetics</i>, (pp. 409-416)</li> </ul>	
11.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danto, <i>The Art World</i>, (pp. 417-425)</li> </ul>	
11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thanksgiving No Assignment</b></li> </ul>	
11.28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dickie, <i>What is Art? An Institutional Analysis</i>, (pp. 426-437)</li> </ul>	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Exam: Monday 12.5</b></li> </ul>	

### Course Policies

**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 log in and participate as part of their learning in the course. 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:** Students are expected to access the online course materials and participate in the required discussions, activities and assignments. Course tracking can be used to assess the amount of "attendance" in an online course. Any student who fails to complete a scheduled assignment during the first week of class will be reported as a "No Show".

**Grading Policy: Late Work:** Unless otherwise stated, all work is to be submitted no later than 11.59 pm on the day that it is due. ***Missed exams cannot be made up, and late work will not be accepted.*** No exceptions will be made unless a student can provide documentation of an emergency that rendered the student unable to submit or complete his or her work on time. ***Take special note:*** last minute computer problems do not constitute an excuse for missed work. It is recommended that you submit your assignments well in advance of the deadline, so that, in case of computer difficulties, you can use another computer (for example those at Clayton or your local library) to submit your work.

**Online Etiquette (Netiquette):** Discussion, chat, and e-mail spaces within this course are for class purposes only, unless otherwise stated. Please remember to conduct yourself collegially and professionally. Unlike in the classroom setting, what you say in the online environment is documented and not easily erased or forgotten.

The following guidelines apply:

- Avoid using ALL CAPS, sarcasm, and language that could come across as strong or offensive.
- Use proper punctuation, grammar and be sure to edit asynchronous contributions before posting.
- Read all postings before posting your responses to discussion topics so as to not unnecessarily repeat information.
- Keep chat comments brief and to the point.
- Focus on one topic at a time when chatting or posting to discussions.
- Remember that unlike in face-to-face learning environments what you say in discussions and chats is documented and available to be revisited. Choose your words and discussion topics carefully.

- E-mail should only be used for messages pertaining to the course. Please refrain from sending forwards, jokes, etc. within e-mail.

**Email Etiquette:** You are expected to write as you would in any professional correspondence. Email communication should be courteous and respectful in manner and tone. Also, formal, grammatically correct English should be employed in all emails; do not write in the form of “text messaging.”

Do not expect an immediate response via email (normally, a response will be sent as soon as possible). Generally, allow a response within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekends/holidays. If your email question is sent at the last minute it may not be possible to send you a response before an assignment is due or a test is given.

Emails that are not written in a professional, formal manner, using standard, grammatically correct English will not receive a response. A professional email will include: a) a subject heading with our class listed; b) complete sentences using punctuation; and c) academic English.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations need to register with Disability Services in order to obtain their accommodations. You can contact them at 678-466-5445 or [disabilityservices@clayton.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@clayton.edu). If you are already registered with Disability Services and are seeking accommodations for this course, please make an appointment with me to discuss your specific accommodation needs and give me your accommodations letter.

### **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. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the [Student Resource Handbook](#). See page 16.

**Plagiarism Detection Software:** Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

**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://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.pdf>

### **Operation Study**

At Clayton State University, we expect and support high motivation and academic achievement. Look for Operation Study activities and programs this semester that are designed to enhance your academic success such

as study sessions, study breaks, workshops, and opportunities to earn Study Bucks (for use in the University Bookstore) and other items.