This course focuses on two questions around which philosophy of the arts is developed: 1. What is aesthetic experience? 2. What is its relation to conceptual knowledge? Out of these two questions a third appears: How does Aesthetic experience happen as a kind of knowledge that is not rational in the sense of the linguistic and logical, and yet may inform the interpretation of experience and the development of conceptual knowledge? The latter question has been raised and answered by poets, painter, filmmakers, dancers, musicians, and philosophers. In this course we will look closely at some of the responses in order to develop a sense of aesthetic experience and through this, a sense of the complexity of approaching the arts philosophically. The basic task for us will be to learn to see the invisible work of esthetic experience in the contemplation of art, i.e., not just looking at or listening to works of art but learning to become aware of how one sees and hears: an awareness and sensibility afforded us by the works of art.

**Texts required**
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*
Stan Brakhage, *Essential Brakhage*

**Other readings**
Paul Klee, “On modern Art.” (Canvas)
Heidegger, “The Origin of the Work of Art.” (Canvas)

**Reading Schedule**
(All reading due before class)

1/4-6 Course introduction. Paul Klee, “On modern Art.” (Canvas)
11-13 Paul Klee, “On modern Art.” (Canvas)
18 MLK-20 Merleau-Ponty, “Eye and Mind.”
2/1-3 Merleau-Ponty, “Cezanne’s Doubt.”
8-10 Merleau-Ponty, “Cezanne’s Doubt.” / Guest artist Sarah Grew.
15-17 Maya Deren [Midterm due]
22-24 Maya Deren/Stan Brakhage
29-3/2 Stan Brakhage
7-9 Anselm Kiefer- Time and art / Pina Bauch- Dance, movement and time
14-[Final paper due before noon]

**Requirements** (All assignments are to be turned in when they are due.)
1. Students will be responsible for having **two leading questions prepared for each session**. The questions should demonstrate knowledge of the assigned text. They should be prepared ahead of time, and should be clearly and
correctly written on a separate sheet. They will be collected at the beginning of each class. There will not be any make-ups. 20%

2. All participants are expected to **come to class prepared to lead the discussion of the main paragraphs being discussed during each session.** At times you will be expected to present sections, participate in discussions, and complete short writing assignments in class. 20%

3. **Midterm Course Report.** For a midterm you will be expected to turn in a one page summary of each day of classes. The summary should be based on your notes from class, and should include the main topics discussed, technical terms and definitions, and critical issues raised. In a closing paragraph you should discuss one idea you found most compelling, you should explain why. 20%

4. There will be a **final paper** on an assigned topic. Papers should be 5 to 8 pages in length. All papers must be double spaced, standard font and margins. In all cases you will be expected to use one main text from those read in class, with careful citations and explications of passages; and at least one other text (also from those read in class). When fitting, the content of the paper will reflect class discussions and lectures. 40%

**Course Policies**

**Grade Rubric:**
- **A** = excellent. No mistakes, well written, and distinctive in some way or other.
- **B** = good. No significant mistakes, well written, but not distinctive in any way.
- **C** = OK. Some errors but a basic grasp of the material.
- **D** = poor. Several errors; tenuous grasp of the material.
- **F** = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

Please note that the grades refer to the expected level of general performance, and to the understanding and articulation of the material covered in this course.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes, unless you have a major emergency. If this occurs let me know as soon as possible and then see me in person. Absences will lower your grade.

**Computer, Cell Phone, and Electronic Equipment Policy**
The use of computers, cell phones, or any other electronic equipment not specifically allowed by the instructor is not permitted during class.

**Rules of Academic Honesty**
The following acts of academic dishonesty will result in course failure, i.e., an "F"

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else’s product, words, ideas, or data as one’s own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. By placing one’s name on work submitted for credit, one certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. Verbatim statements by others must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from the regular text as indented extracts. Students will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is acknowledgement of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever: 1) one quotes another person’s actual words or replicates all or part of another’s product; 2) one uses another person’s ideas, opinions, work, data,
or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one’s own words; 3) one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material—unless the information is common knowledge.

Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). In addition, it is plagiarism to submit as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another person, even if that person is acting as a tutor or editor (and ends up substantially producing part of the work).

Fabrication: Fabrication is the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive. Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) citing information not taken from the source indicated; 2) listing sources in a reference not used in the academic exercise; 3) inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercises.

Cheating: Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise.

Examples include but are not limited to: 1) copying from another student’s work; 2) collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one’s work in a test situation; 3) using the course textbook or other material not authorized for use during a test; 4) using unauthorized material during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5) resubmitting substantially the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6) taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

Contact Information and Office Hours
248 Susan Campbell Hall, R, 1:30-3:30 or by appointment. email: avallega@uoregon.edu (In your emails please specify your full name and the title of the course you are attending).