Philosophy 322: Philosophy of the Arts

Fall 2014--Course Syllabus

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Course Description
We will examine five basic views about the nature of art and aesthetic experience that have been
dominant in the Western philosophical tradition. These include conceptions of art as (1)
imitation, (2) emotional expression and communication, (3) form, (4) institutionally-defined
artifacts, and (5) consummation of human meaning and experience. Texts will range historically
from the Greeks up through the 21st century. Examples of arts will be drawn from painting,
sculpture, poetry, literature, architecture, and music.

Schedule of Readings
The reading selections are available in the course packet at the Copy Shop on 13th Ave. Below is
a tentative list of readings for each class period. If any minor revisions of this schedule are
required, they will be announced in class.

Wk. I
Sept. 29  Introduction to the course
Oct. 1   Plato. Ion, Republic (7-17, 467-487).

Wk. II

Wk. III
Oct. 15 Examples of mimesis in art

Wk. IV
Oct. 20 Kant, Critique of Judgment, Moment I (269-274).
[Essay #1 due]
Oct. 22 Kant, Critique of Judgment, Moment II (275-280).

Wk. V
Oct. 27 Kant, Critique of Judgment, Moment III (280-291).

Oct. 29 No class – Johnson out of the country to lecture

Wk. VI
Nov. 3 Kant, Critique of Judgment, Moment IV (292-296).
    [Essay #2 due]

**Wk. VII**

**Wk. VIII**
Langer. *Feeling and Form* (CP).

    [Essay #3 due]

**Wk. IX**
Nov. 24 Weitz. "The Role of Theory in Esthetics" (183-192).
    Danto. "The Artworld" (201-212).

**Wk. X**
Dec. 1 Dewey. "Having an Experience" (59-75).
Dec. 3 Shusterman. "Art and Theory Between Experience and Practice" (CP).

**Wk. XI**
[Essay # 4 due Dec. 9]

**Assignments/Grading**
Your course grade will be based on a series of four essays plus a discussion grade. Each of these five components will constitute one-fifth of your grade (on a 25-point scale), for a maximum possible 125 points for the course. The four short essays (maximum of 5 double-spaced, typewritten pages) will be on topics selected by the instructor, and there will be one essay for each of the four sections of the course. The essays are due on the following dates: (1) Oct. 20; (2) Nov. 5; (3) Nov. 19; (4) Dec. 9. *All essays must be submitted both in hard copy and electronically via Safe Assign.* Two-fifths of your discussion grade will be for attendance and three-fifths for the quantity and quality of your discussion participation. Plagiarism is a serious offense, subject to serious penalties, as specified in the UO code on academic dishonesty.