PHIL 4403: Philosophy of Art
University of Arkansas; Spring, 2005

Professor: Eric Funkhouser
Office hours: 3:30 – 4:30 MW, 1:30 – 2:30 F, and by appointment
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Class webpage: http://comp.uark.edu/~efunkho/philart.html
Class meeting time: 2:30 – 3:20 p.m., MWF
Class room: Old Main 325

I. Texts

Required for everyone (available at the campus bookstore, among others):

Required for graduate students only:
   I didn’t order this book, so you will have to purchase or borrow this book on your own. I also have a copy of it that you can borrow.

II. Course Description

This class is intended to serve as an introduction to some basic issues in the philosophy of art from the analytic philosophy perspective. Though it is introductory in scope, surveying much (but certainly not all) of the philosophy of art terrain, the readings and lectures will not be easy. I expect that many who have not taken at least a couple philosophy courses, and are unaccustomed to the procedures and standards of analytic philosophy, will find the readings difficult (in both style and substance). But if read carefully, and supplemented with my lectures and online lecture notes, I am confident that everyone in the class is capable of understanding the central points of each reading.

I have selected the readings with an emphasis on contemporary sources, but have also included historical works from Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Poe, Tolstoy, and Wilde. As you will see in the section VI schedule, the class material divides into the following 5 topics:
1. The Search for a Definition: What is Art?
2. Creating, Interpreting, and Evaluating Art
3. Aesthetic Properties and Paradoxes of Fiction
4. Art and Society
5. Particular Arts
III. Online Resources

The class website listed above will contain additional information that will benefit you in your preparation for lectures, your papers, and exams. I will put some lecture notes for each class online sometime before each lecture. You can download and print out these notes on your own. Do note, however, that these notes will not replace in-class note-taking. In fact, I will construct exam questions so that exclusive reliance on these notes will not be sufficient for an adequate performance on the exams. Careful reading of the assignments, as well as in-class note-taking, will be essential to performing well on the exams. All class handouts, as well as some additional links, will also be posted online.

IV. Grading

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Undergraduate Grading:
- Midterm exams: 40% (20% each)
- Final exam: 25%
- 3 Short papers: 10%, 10%, and 15%

Graduate Grading:
- Midterm exams: 40% (20% each)
- Final Exam: 25%
- 1 Short Paper: 10%
- 1 Longer Paper (On Walton’s Mimesis as Make-Believe): 25%

There may be “pop” reading quizzes at any time. Participation, quizzes, and intangibles will help determine borderline cases.

V. Miscellaneous

Assignments are due as listed on the schedule below. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY CASES. Even in these emergency cases (death in family, hospitalization, etc.) you should notify me BEFORE the assignment is due. This holds for exams as well.

Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on tests, etc.) is taken very seriously. Any violation will result in the most severe repercussions allowed by the University. For the University policy on academic dishonesty, see:
http://www.uark.edu:80/campus-resources/rlee/honesty.html

If you require special accommodations for test-taking and/or paper-writing, inform me of them by the first week of class (with proper documentation) so that the proper arrangements can be made.
Inclement weather policy: Assume, until you hear otherwise from me, that class will not be canceled due to inclement weather (even if the university’s inclement weather policy is in effect). If class must be canceled due to the weather, or for any other reason, I will send out a class email as soon as possible. In the worst case scenario, I will simply have a notice posted in the classroom.

VI. Reading Assignments and Schedule of Topics

Readings and assignments are due by the date on which they are listed. This schedule is subject to change.

Date  
Readings, Assignments, and Topics  
Section 1. The Search for a Definition: What is Art?  

W Jan. 19  
Class Introduction  

F Jan. 21  
Plato, excerpts (available on class website)  
GRAD: APA, General Introduction  
Topic: The Form Question  

M Jan. 24  
Plato, *The Republic*, Book X (available online)  
Topic: Art as Imitation  

W Jan. 26  
Aristotle, *Poetics*, Parts I-XI (available online)  
http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.1.1.html  
Topic: Art as Imitation, cont’d  

F Jan. 28  
None  
Topic: Cont’d/Representation and Expression  

M Jan. 31  
A, Tolstoy’s “What is Art?”, 166-171  
A, Hospers’ “Art as Expression”, 172-175  
Topic: Art as Expression  

W Feb. 2  
A, Bell’s “The Aesthetic Hypothesis” and “The Metaphysical Hypothesis”, 15-23 and 158-159  
Topic: Art as Significant Form  

F Feb. 4  
None  
Topic: Cont’d  

M Feb. 7  
APA, Weitz’s “The Role of Theory in Aesthetics”, 12-18
Topic: Skepticism about a Theory of Art

W Feb. 9  
*APA*, Davies’ “Weitz’s Anti-Essentialism”, 63-68  
Topic: Responding to the Skepticism

F Feb. 11  
*APA*, Danto’s “The Artworld”, 27-34  
Topic: Art as Necessarily Embedded in an Artworld

M Feb. 14  
*APA*, Dickie’s “The New Institutional Theory of Art”, 47-54  
Topic: The Institutional Theory of Art

W Feb. 16  
*APA*, Levinson’s “Defining Art Historically”, 35-46  
Topic: Historical Definition of Art

F Feb. 18  
*APA*, Beardsley’s “An Aesthetic Definition of Art”, 55-62  
Topic: Art and the Aesthetic Attitude

M Feb. 21  
**Exam #1**

Section 2. Creating, Interpreting, and Evaluating Art

W Feb. 23  
*A*, Kant’s “Art and Genius”, 180-187  
**GRAD:** *A*, Kant’s “Art and Genius”, 180-192  
Topic: Kant on Genius and Taste

F Feb. 25  
*A*, Poe’s “The Philosophy of Composition”, 208-215  
Topic: Poe’s Writing of ‘The Raven’

M Feb. 28  
*A*, Beardsley’s “The Artist’s Intention”, 224-228  
**GRAD:** *MM*, 1-69  
**Paper #1 Due (Both Undergrad. and Grad.)**
Topic: Anti-Intentionalism

W March 2  
*A*, Wollheim’s “Criticism as Retrieval”, 235-242  
Topic: Intentionalism

F March 4  
*A*, Danto’s “Deep Interpretation”, 256-264  
Topic: Deep Interpretation

M March 7  
*A*, Hume’s “Of the Standard of Taste”, 350-364  
**GRAD:** *MM*, 70-137  
Topic: Evaluating Art
Section 3. Aesthetic Properties and Paradoxes of Fiction

M March 14  APA, Sibley’s “Aesthetic Concepts”, 127-141
GRAD: MM, 138-187
Paper #2 Due (Undergrad. Only)
Topic: Aesthetic Properties

W March 16  None
Topic: Cont’d/Supervenience

F March 18  APA, Walton’s “Categories of Art”, 142-157
Topic: Art, Classification, and Context

M March 21st through F March 25th  SPRING BREAK

M March 28  APA, Radford’s “How Can We Be Moved by the Fate of Anna Karenina?”, 300-306
GRAD: MM, 189-289
Topic: A Paradox of Fiction

W March 30  APA, Walton’s “Fearing Fictions”, 307-319
Topic: Make-Believe Emotions

F April 1  APA, Lamarque’s “How Can We Fear and Pity Fictions?”, 328-336
Topic: Cont’d

M April 4  Exam #2

Section 4. Art and Society

W April 6  A, Kristeller’s “The Modern System of Arts”, 90-102
Topic: A System of Fine Arts

F April 8  A, Geertz’s “Art as a Cultural System”, 109-118
Topic: Art across Cultures

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M April 11  
A, Sagoff’s “On the Aesthetic and Economic Value of Art”, 119-128  
Topic: The Value of Art

Section 5. Particular Arts

W April 13  
APA, Walton’s “Are Representations Symbols?”, 349-358  
Topic: Representational Art and Symbols

F April 15  
APA, Scruton’s “Photography and Representation”, 359-374  
Topic: Photography

M April 18  
APA, Olsen’s “Literary Aesthetics and Literary Practice”, 422-432  
**Paper # 3 Due (Undergraduates)/Graduate Paper Due**
Topic: Literary Practice

W April 20  
APA, Lamarque’s “The Death of the Author: An Analytical Autopsy”, 433-441  
Topic: The Role of the Author

F April 22  
APA, Kivy’s “The Profundity of Music”, 463-469  
Topic: What’s Profound about Music?

M April 25  
APA, Robinson’s “The Expression and Arousal of Emotion in Music”, 470-479  
Topic: Music and Expression

W April 27  
APA, Baugh’s “Prolegomena to Any Aesthetics of Rock Music” and Davies’ “Rock versus Classical Music”, 498-516  
Topic: Rock Music

F April 29  
APA, Hepburn’s “Contemporary Aesthetics and the Neglect of Natural Beauty”, 521-534  
Topic: The Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature

M May 2  
APA, Carlson’s “Appreciation and the Natural Environment”, 535-542  
Topic: Environmental Aesthetics

W May 4  
None  
Topic: Review

**FINAL EXAM:** Wednesday, May 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (regular classroom).