



PHIL 2401 – Introduction to Aesthetics

Course Syllabus – Fall 2009

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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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**Course Description:**

**Number and Title:** PHIL 2401 (CRN 86726 and 86727): Introduction to Aesthetics

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

**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. [Note: 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.]

**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 WebCT

**In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:**

Computers will be required to access course materials, communicate with your instructor, and participate in classroom research activities.

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**Program Learning Outcomes:****General education outcomes:**

The following links provide tabular descriptions of the communications outcome and the critical thinking outcome components (see PHIL 2401 in the tables):

- [Communications outcomes components](#)
- [Critical thinking outcomes components](#)

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- To familiarize students with aesthetics
  - To enhance communication skills, oral and written
  - To teach analysis of complex concepts, ideas, definitions, and arguments
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**Instructor Information:**

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internet: <http://a-s.clayton.edu/ahall/default.htm>

**Office:** Arts and Sciences Building, Room G-210P

**Office hours:** MWF 11am-12pm, 2-3pm **Drop-ins welcome!**

**Course mailing lists:**

**CRN:** 86726 [PHIL2401-01Fall09@lists.clayton.edu](mailto:PHIL2401-01Fall09@lists.clayton.edu)

**CRN:** 86727 [PHIL2401-02Fall09@lists.clayton.edu](mailto:PHIL2401-02Fall09@lists.clayton.edu)

**Course webpage:** [http://a-s.clayton.edu/ahall/introduction\\_to\\_aesthetics.htm](http://a-s.clayton.edu/ahall/introduction_to_aesthetics.htm)

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### Classrooms and Meeting Times

- CRN 86726: University Center, Room 262. MWF 9-9:50
  - CRN 86727: University Center, Room 262. MWF 12-12:50 p.m.
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### Texts:

- (1) Cooper, Aesthetics: The Classic Readings, Blackwell Publishing, 1997.
- (2) Townsend, Aesthetics: Classic Readings from the Western Tradition, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

**Text Coverage:** Selected Readings (see below)

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### Evaluation:

Weekly Online Quizzes	30%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final examination	20%
Paper	25%
Draft of Paper	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### Grading:

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

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## Requirements Explained:

1. Quizzes: Each week there will be a WebCT quiz on the week's readings. Each quiz may be taken only once, so carefully double-check your answers before submission. After 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the week that the class meets, the quiz will be unavailable and cannot be made up unless you supply appropriate documentation as discussed below under the heading 'Missed Work'. Exceptions: There will be no quiz the first or last week of classes or the week of the midterm exam.
  2. Exams: The midterm essay exam will cover the readings we have completed up to that point. Bring a blue book to the exam. The final exam will cover all readings completed after the midterm exam. The format for the final exam is identical with the format for the midterm exam.
  3. Papers: 4-6 double spaced pages. Use a cover sheet for your name, class number, and paper title. The paper must be accompanied with a bibliography that conforms to an authoritative style manual such as the Chicago Manual of Style 15th edition. Neither the bibliography nor the cover sheet is included in the paper's page count. The paper treats some issue raised in your readings. There is no fixed topic. Find something that interests you and consult with me for approval. Recommended topics: Compare two thinkers with regard to some issue raised in their works; Give your appraisal of a thinker's position on a topic relevant to aesthetics; Discuss modern day applications of a thinker's work; Show how a thinker approaches and resolves some problem in the field of aesthetics. The grade is determined by grammar, syntax, fulfillment of formatting requirements, bibliography, clarity, grasp of the material, and development and resolution of your thesis. In addition, your paper must demonstrate that you consulted at least two secondary sources (i.e., at least two peer reviewed articles). These requirements apply equally to both the draft and final paper.
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## Mid-term Progress Report:

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by October 6, reflects approximately 35% 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 9. The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, October 9, 2009.

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## Course Schedule:

The course schedule for PHIL 2401, Introduction to Aesthetics, is provided in the table below. References to (C) refer to Cooper, Aesthetics: The Classic Readings, Blackwell Publishing, 1997; references to (T) refer to Townsend, Aesthetics: Classic Readings from the Western Tradition, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

Week	Reading	Dates to Remember
Aug 17-21	(T) <i>Classical and Medieval Aesthetics</i> : 1-4 (T) Plato: 5-19	
Aug 24-28	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>	
Aug 31-Sept 4	(T) Aristotle: 20-43	
Sept 7-11	(T) Plotinus: 44-54 (T) Bonaventure: 55-65 (T) Dante: 66-76	<b>9/7 No Class – Labor Day</b>
Sept 14-18	(T) Plotinus: 44-54 (T) Bonaventure: 55-65 (T) Dante: 66-76	
Sept 21-25	(T) <i>Modern Aesthetics</i> : 81-82 (T) <i>The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries</i> : 83-86 (T) Hutcheson 87-99	
Sept 28-Oct 2	(T) Hume: 100-116	<b>9/28 Midterm review</b> <b>9/30 Midterm exam</b>
Oct 5-9	(T) Kant: 117-141 (C) Kant: 94-122	<b>10/6 Midterm Grade Submission</b> <b>10/9 Last day to withdraw with W</b>
Oct 12-16	(T) Kant: 117-141 (C) Kant: 94-122 (C) Schiller: 123-136	
Oct 19-23	(T) <i>The Nineteenth Century</i> 145-149 (T) Nietzsche: 173-187	<b>Paper draft due 10/21</b>
Oct 26-30	(T) Tolstoy: 204-213 (C) Tolstoy: 164-176	
Nov 2-6	(T) <i>The Turn of the Century</i> : 216-219 (T) Croce: 220-236 (C) Dewey: 208-228	
Nov 9-13	(T) <i>Aesthetics in the Twentieth Century</i> : 271-280 (C) Heidegger: 229-243	

Nov 16-20	(T) Weitz: 296-306 (T) Dickie: 307-321	
Nov 23-27	(T) Danto: 322-337	<b>Paper due 11/23 No class 11/25-27</b>
Nov 30-Dec 4	(T) Danto: 322-337	

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## 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 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.

### Missed Work

Without 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:

- Make-up quizzes will be scheduled at a time chosen by the instructor. Note, the make-up quiz may be different from the scheduled quiz that the student missed.
- Make-up tests will be scheduled at a time chosen by the instructor. Note, the make-up exam may be different from the scheduled examination that the student missed.
- Make-up papers and paper drafts will be due at a time chosen by the instructor.
- The final examination must be taken. If you know you cannot make the scheduled time, consult at least two weeks in advance with the instructor and a new exam date may be arranged, if the instructor believes conditions warrant rescheduling. To reschedule an exam, you must submit a change of final examination date form to the instructor several days prior to the examination. It is your responsibility to submit this form and, if you do not, then you will not be allowed to reschedule your exam. Forms may be obtained from the secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences. Note, should you reschedule, the exam you take may be different from the regularly scheduled examination.

### **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. **If you use the words or ideas of another person but do not give him or her credit, you are plagiarizing. Even if you just closely paraphrase another person without providing proper citation, that is 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 Student Life/Judicial Affairs. Judicial procedures are described at: <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/>.

### **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>.