MORAVIAN COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2012

PHIL 199 Special Topics: Introduction to Aesthetics

3b (TR 10:20-11:30) Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 and Wednesdays 1-2

Instructor: Dr. Bernie Cantens Visiting Instructor: Dr. Arash Naraghi Classroom: Comenius 218 Office: Comenius Hall 107 Phone/E-Mail: (610) 861-1589/ bcantens@moravian.edu Web Page: http://berniephilosophy.com/

Text

(PAB) *Philosophies of Art and Beauty: Selected Readings in Aesthetics from Plato to Heidegger* Edited by Albert Hofstadter and Richard Kuhns. University of Chicago Press, 1964. ISBN 0-226-34812-1

 (IA) Introduction to Aesthetics: An Analytic Approach George Dickie.Oxford University Press, 1997.
 ISBN 978-0-19-511304-4

* Make sure you bring the text to every class!

Course Description

The course is a historical and contemporary introduction to the philosophy of beauty and art. Central questions include: What is the nature of beauty? What is art? Are there objective aesthetic values? Are there objective criteria for the evaluation of art? Are there objective interpretations of art?

100-Level Course

This course is meant as a first course in philosophy. It will introduce students to basic vocabulary and basic philosophical concepts and theories.

Course Goals

The objectives of this course are the following: 1) to study the origin and nature of theories of beauty in ancient Greece; 2) to survey the historical development and evolution of the theories of beauty from ancient Greece to the present; 3) to study theories of art from Plato and Aristotle to the present; 4) to study aesthetic-attitude theories of beauty; 5) to study metacriticism theories of beauty; 6) to develop a framework of some of the central problems in aesthetics through four issues: (i) intentionalist criticism, (ii) symbolism in art, (iii) metaphor, and iv) expression; 7) to apply theoretical knowledge about art and beauty to practical examples of art and beauty; and 8) to study some of the contemporary theories of evaluating art.

Learning Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this course are the following: 1) to write intelligibly about the origin and nature of theories of beauty in ancient Greece; 2) to recognize and explain the historical development and evolution of the theories of beauty from ancient Greece to the present; 3) to identify and explain the various theories of art from Plato and Aristotle to the present; 4) to explain aesthetic-attitude theories of beauty; 5) to explain metacriticism theories of beauty; 6) to recognize and write clearly about some of the central problems in aesthetics; 7) to provide clear illustrations how theoretical knowledge about art and beauty can be applied to practical examples of art and beauty; and 8) to identify and explain some of the contemporary theories of evaluating art.

Grading and Assignments

Exams (40%)

There will be two exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 20 % of the final grade. The exams will be composed of essays and short answers. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Papers (60%)

Students will complete three out of four philosophical writing assignments on a topic *directly* related to this course and assigned readings. (The extra assignment can either be ignored or a student can do all four and the lowest grade will be dropped.) The writing assignment is a *top*down, thesis-governed paper approximately 3-5 pages long, double-spaced and 12-Times New Roman font. A thesis-governed paper is a more formal academic style paper – "the prototypical structure of academic prose. Such writing begins with the presentation of a problem to be addressed; near the end of the introduction, after the writer has presented the problem, the writer states his or her thesis, often accompanied by a purpose statement or a blueprint statement that gives the reader an overview of the whole essay. The body of the paper then supports the thesis with appropriate arguments and evidence" (John C. Bean, *Engaging Ideas*, 87). The students will be graded according to four criteria: (1) whether the introduction has a clear and explicit thesis and organized developing statements; (2) whether the paper is well organized and demonstrates a logical flow of ideas (in accordance with the introduction); (3) whether there are well constructed and developed arguments and/or critical explanations of philosophical problems and solutions; and (4) whether the writing skills, such as word use, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are correct.

In an effort to provide opportunities for the writing process to work, the papers will be completed in four parts: (1) Thesis, (2) Introduction and Outline, (3) 1st Draft, and (4) Final Paper. Each part will be checked by the professor.

Required Paper Assignment Due Dates

January 31, 2012 February 16, 2012 March 22. 2012 April 17, 2012 The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Exams (40 %)

There will be two exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade. The exam will be composed of essays and short answers.

Exam 1: February 23, 2012 Exam 2: April 30, Monday 1:30 PM

Learning Methods

Multimedia This course will combine traditional classroom lecturing with multimedia presentations. Every lecture will be supplemented with power point presentations and internet information. All course materials, such as syllabus, review questions, term paper information, etc., are posted on my website: <u>http://berniephilosophy.com</u>. This will give the students direct access to most of the materials for this class at their convenience.

Class Dynamic Class participation is expected of all students enrolled in this course. Questions and class discussions are encouraged as an effective vehicle to motivate students' interest in the subject matter. *If there are few questions and little discussion taking place in the classroom, the professor reserves the right to choose individual students to answer questions or give their view and the arguments on a particular issue.* Therefore, careful daily reading of the text and handouts is essential for success in this course.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Students <u>must</u> bring their text to every class! Students will lose 1 point for every unexcused absence up to a possible 5 points. Students can make up lost points in unexcused absences by actively participating in class discussions or attending out-of-class philosophy lectures and events. Unexcused absences include only the following: (1) sickness with a doctors' note, (2) death in the family, or (3) some other extraordinary event.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

See Student Handbook pp. 32 – 38.

Students Disability Policy

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Student Behavior:

See Student Handbook pp. 38 – 40.

Course Requirements

Students should read the assigned chapters before the professor introduces them. Class participation, note taking, and discussion are highly encouraged. The study of philosophy does

not only consist of memorization; students must also read analytically and reflect critically on the texts and reading assignments. When studying difficult material, it is often necessary to read it several times before a proper understanding is achieved. Do not be disappointed if you do not understand a philosophical reading assignment on your first try.

Grading/Measures of evaluations:

Exam 1:	20 %
Exam 2:	20 %
Papers:	60 %

A=100-94; A- =93-90; B+=89-87; B=86-84; B- = 83-80; C+=79-77; C = 76-70; D=69-60; F=<59

Extra Credit

Students will have the opportunity of earning up to a maximum of 3 extra credit points. Students who attend 3 philosophy club meetings or other selected meetings with philosophical content (must be approved by professor beforehand) will earn 3 extra credit points. If you only attend 1 or 2 meetings you will receive no extra credit.

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION	READINGS
January 17	Introduction	IA: Introduction PAB: Introduction
January 19	Plato's Theory of Art	PAB, <i>Republic</i> , <i>Ion</i> , <i>Sophist Phaedrus</i> , Laws, 3-68; IA, pp. 44-46
WEEK 2	I. HISTORICAL ANALYSES OF AESTHETICS	
January 24	Plato's Theory of Beauty	PAB. 68-77 Symposium
January 26	Aristotle's Theory of Art	PAB, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics, 80-84;
WEEK 3		

PROGRAM AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 31	Aristotle's Theory of Art	PAB, Poetics 97-125
February 2	Paper 1	
WEEK 4		
February 7	Augustine Philosophy of Beauty	PAB: <i>De Musica</i> 185-202
February 9	Shaftesbury	PAB: 243-276
WEEK 5		
February 14	18 th Century Philosophy of Taste Hutcheson, Burke, Hume, Alison	IA, pp. 11-25
February 16	Immanuel Kant <i>Critique of Judgment</i> Paper 2	PAB: 281-343
WEEK 6		
WEEK 6 February 21	Midterm	
WEEK 6 February 21 February 23	Midterm No Class	
WEEK 6 February 21 February 23 WEEK 7	Midterm No Class	
WEEK 6February 21February 23WEEK 7February 28	Midterm No Class Immanuel Kant Critique of Judgment	PAB: 281-343
WEEK 6February 21February 23WEEK 7February 28March 1	Midterm No Class Immanuel Kant Critique of Judgment Dewey Art as Experience	PAB: 281-343 PAB: 579-292
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WEEK 6February 21February 23WEEK 7February 28March 1WEEK 8	Midterm No Class Immanuel Kant Critique of Judgment Dewey Art as Experience	PAB: 281-343 PAB: 579-292

March 5-9	Spring Break	
WEEK 9	II. 20 th CENTURY THEORIES OF ART	
March 13	Clive Bell, A Twentieth-Century Beauty Theory of Art Suzanne Langer, A Twentieth-Century Imitation Theory of Art	AI, 52-73
March 15	R.G. Collingwood: A Twentieth-Century Expressionist Theory of Art Morris Weitz, Art as an Open Concept	AI, 52-73
WEEK 10	III. AESTHETICS ATTITUDE	
March 20	The Aesthetic Attitude in the Twentieth Century Metacriticism: Alternative to Aesthetic Attitude	AI, 28-37 AI, 38-43
March 22	Jerome Stolnitz, "The Aesthetic Attitude"	Handout
	Paper 3	
WEEK 11		
March 27	George Dickie, "The Myth of the Aesthetic Attitude"	Handout
March 29	Discussion	
WEEK 12	IV. AESTHETICS AND CULTURAL CONTEXT 1960-Present	
April 3	A Change in Direction for the Experience of Art	AI, 77-82
April 5	Institutional Theory of Art	AI: 82-93
WEEK 13	V. FOUR PROBLEMS IN AESTHETICS	

April 10	 Intentionalist Criticism Symbolism in Art 	AI, 97-113
April 12	3) Metaphor4) Expression	AI, 113-120
WEEK 14	VI. EVALUATION OF ART	
April 17	 Twentieth-Century Theories of Evaluation Personal Subjectivism Intuitionism Emotivism Relativism Critical Singularism 	AI, 127-142
April 19	T.E. Jessop, "The Objectivity of Aesthetics Values"	Handout
WEEK 15		
April 24	Curt J. Ducasse, "The Subjectivity of Aesthetic Value"	Handout
April 26	Evaluation of Art Monroe Beardsley's Instrumentalism	IA, 1 42-156
	Monroe C. Beardsley, "The Instrumentalist Theory of Aesthetic Value"	Handout
April 30	Final Exam Monday 1:30	
PLEASE, as a courtesy to the other students in the class, turn off all phones u		