

PHI 3800 – PHILOSOPHY OF ART
Dr. Howe

Course Description:

This course examines philosophical issues concerned with the nature of art. Students will explore fundamental theories of art which address the creative process, the product of art, and aesthetic experience. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts and theories in the philosophy of art. Terms such as form, representation, expression, symbolism, beauty and others will be examined within the parameters of specific aesthetic theories.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand major theories of art.
2. To compare and contrast philosophies of art and relate positions to one's own theoretical development.
3. To understand the methods employed for the examination of philosophical problems within the perspective of aesthetics, e.g. the nature of art, aesthetic experience, the relation between truth and beauty.

Texts:

Hospers: *Introductory Readings in Aesthetics*

Class Work:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to have read assigned material before each class. Meetings will typically consist of lecture and discussion.

Tests:

There will be two tests: one mid-term essay and one final essay.

Written Project

Each student is required to apply an aesthetic theory to some particular work of art. The written project must include: a) a discussion of the aesthetic theory you wish to defend with documentation from one or more of its chief authors, and b) an application of that theory to some specific work of art that enables you to explain why the selected work should be characterized as fine art. The written project must be 5 to 10 double-spaced typed pages. Extra credit may be awarded to those who present their project to the class.

Grading:

The final course grade will be based on the cumulative grades of the two essay examinations and the written project. Each graded assignment will count for 1/3 of the overall grade.