

N. Treanor
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Office Hours: Paterson 360A, 9:30-11:30 Thursdays
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Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35am-12:55pm

Course Description

In this course we will look at variety of issues in contemporary aesthetics, drawing on recent philosophical work and engaging extensively with art and the artworld by viewing, reading or listening to artworks and interacting with artists, curators and guest speakers. Galleries to be visited include the Carleton University Art Gallery, the Ottawa Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Âjagemô art space at the Canada Council for the Arts. We will also do a close reading of Alice Munro's 'Differences', and consider street art, the aesthetics of everyday objects, and aesthetic issues in monumental art and architecture.

The course has three aims: First, to introduce you to central issues in contemporary aesthetics and help you understand their shape and character. Second, to develop and enrich your capacity to engage aesthetically, critically and reflectively with art. Third, to develop your general philosophical and critical abilities, especially the abilities to grasp and manipulate highly abstract ideas, to engage in reasoning that is both creative and logically disciplined, and to express yourself clearly and argue responsibly.

Prerequisites: Precludes additional credit for PHIL 2400, PHIL 3400, PHIL 3401, and PHIL 3402.

Learning Outcomes:

Through engagement with this course, you will:

- Understand a variety of philosophical issues concerning art
- Deepen your capacity to engage with, critique, and appreciate art
- Strengthen your general critical abilities

Texts:

Readings are drawn from a variety of sources and will be available through Perusall, an annotation platform.

Course Calendar:

Weeks 1-2 *Introduction to the course, art, the artworld*

Th. Sept 8: Read: This syllabus

- Do: Carleton Art Gallery visit (during class)
- Tue. Sept 13: Read: Danto, *The Artworld*
Beardsley, *An Aesthetic Definition of Art*
Do: Annotate the readings in Perusall *before* class
- Th. Sept 15: No class during the day
Do: National Gallery of Canada Evening Visit
- Sept 15/16/17: Ottawa Art Gallery visit (doodle poll)
- Weeks 3-8 Aesthetic appreciation, belonging, rights and wrongs*
- Tue. Sept 20: Read: Aesthetic Luck, Anna Christina Ribeiro, *The Monist*, 2018, 99-113
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Th. Sept 22: Read: A New Problem for Aesthetics, Kevin Melchionne
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Tue. Sept 27 Read: Funky White Boys and Honorary Soul Sisters, Paul C. Taylor
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Th. Sept 29 Read: “Anything but Heavy Metal”: Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes,
Bethany Bryson, *American Sociological Review*, 61:5, 1996.
Do: Annotate the readings in perusall *before* class
- Tue. Oct 4 Read: Objects of Appropriation, Walsh and Lopes
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Th. Oct 6 no class (because of gallery visit)
Sometime this week, visit:
Looking the World in the Face, Âjagemô art space, Canada Council for the Arts
<https://canadacouncil.ca/about/ajagemo/looking-the-world-in-the-face> (free entry)
- Tue. Oct 11 Read: Aboriginal Painting: Identity and Authenticity, Elizabeth Burns Coleman,
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 59:4, 2001.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Th. Oct 13 Read: Cultural Appropriation and the Intimacy of Groups, C. Thi Nguyen &
Matthew Strohl, *Philosophical Studies* 176, 981-1002, 2019.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class
- Tue. Oct 18 Read: Repatriation and the Radical Redistribution of Art, Erich Hatala Matthes,
Ergo, 4:32, 2017
- Th. Oct 20 Curator visit/interview
- Tue. Nov 1 Read: Gender, Genius, and Guerrilla Girls, Cynthia Freeland
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Th. Nov 3 Read: Modernity and the Spaces of Femininity, Griselda Pollock
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Break Week

Weeks 9 & 10 Literature and Moral Understanding

Tue. Nov 8 Read: How Can We Be Moved By the Fate of Anna Karenina?, Colin Radford,
Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, 1975.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Th. Nov 10 Read: Grief and the Poet, Catherine Wilson, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 2013.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Tue. Nov 15 Read: Literary Fiction and the Cultivation of Virtue, James Young, *Croatian
Journal of Philosophy*, XIX:56, 2019.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Th. Nov 17 Read Differently, Alice Munro
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Author visit

Weeks 11 & 12 Art, the everyday and ephemerality

Tue. Nov 22 Read: Street Art: The Transformation of the Commonplace, Nicholas Riggle, *The
Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 68:3, 2010.
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Th. Nov 24 Read: The Pervasiveness of the Aesthetic in Ordinary Experience, Sherri Irvin
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Curator visit

Tue. Nov 29 Read: The Ruins of War, Elizabeth Scarbrough
Do: Annotate the reading in Perusall *before* class

Th. Dec 1 Ephemerality in architecture visit

Week 13 Final projects

Tue. Dec 6 Final Project workshop

Th. Dec 8 Final Project workshop

Evaluation

Your course mark will be based on three things:

Reading Annotations: 30 percent

In advance of most classes, you are required to read and annotate a reading, using Perusall, a social annotation software. See the Perusall Guide posted on the Brightspace page for more information about these assignments and how they will be marked.

Note: You are required to annotate all 19 readings prior to the class for which they are assigned; late annotations will not be accepted. In cases of illness, etc., up to 4 of the annotations can be replaced with one-page reading reflections submitted up to 1 week after the class.

Midterm Essay: 25 percent

Due Friday, October 7. A brief for the essay will be posted on Brightspace and distributed on the first day of class.

Final Project: 45 percent

Due Friday, December 9. A brief for the project will be posted on Brightspace and distributed on the first day of class.

These pieces of work are related. Reading and annotating the material ahead of each class puts you in a position to understand and engage with the class sessions. Understanding and engaging with the class sessions, in turn, puts you in a position to enjoy and do well on the midterm essay and final project.

Note: Late penalties for the midterm essay and final project: 5 percent per day

Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.