

PHIL 2807 / ARTH 2807 A – Philosophy of Art

Winter 2020

Instructor: Christopher McGrath

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 16:00-18:00

Office: 3A56 Paterson Hall

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 18:00-19:30

Classroom: TBD

Course Description:

Philosophical approaches to the study of art. Topics such as: the nature of art and artistic value; representation and symbolism in art; art and artifice; art and the emotions; art, culture and ideology; post-structuralism and art; theories of creativity; relationship between artworks and audiences.

The purpose of this course will be to introduce students to major themes involved in the philosophical reflection on art. Most of the course will be taken up by our two main units, the first concerned with reflections on art as a normative activity and the second concerned with reflections on art's relation to philosophy, religion, and the broadly humanist tradition that connects all three. In a brief, concluding unit, we will also follow a chosen course of argument informing relatively recent philosophical work on these themes.

The first unit will investigate philosophical reflections on art as a normative activity by focusing on the central theme of aesthetic judgment. That is, we will ask – what in our experience of art involves a judgment of aesthetic value? what is it that makes art *art*? The unit will be organized loosely around three different approaches to this question: a “realist” approach which finds the value of art to be a property of the art object itself, a “constructivist” approach which finds this value in our own responses to the art object, and a “historicist” approach which understands the art object in terms of its historical situation. In the course of exploring major contributions to these ways of thinking about art, we will have the opportunity to discuss the relation of art to reason, emotion, taste, common sense, tradition, and society.

The second unit proceeds with a systematic question – what are the relations among art, philosophy, and religion? These three general forms of cultural activity have often been seen as expressing the highest aspirations of a culture, so in considering their relations we will have to confront also the broadly humanist approach that has traditionally provided the context for this way of thinking – and so too confront the threat of a “death of art”, of art becoming no longer suited to the premises of this traditional perspective. Accordingly, unit two will be divided into three sections: art and religion, art and philosophy, and the late modern theme of a death, or transformation, of art.

In the brief concluding unit, we will discuss some classic contributions to analytic and continental philosophy of art, and conclude with Habermas' assessment of art's relation to our so-called postmodern condition.

Throughout the semester, we will explore these themes through primary texts in the history of philosophy, reading many of the figures who made formative contributions to each theme. These readings will form the basis for the classroom lectures.

Schedule of the Lectures:

Lecture topics may be adjusted pending our ability to adequately get through the material in class. But the initial plan is as follows:

#	Date	Topic
1	Jan 07	Introduction - Dilthey
		Unit One – Aesthetic Judgment
2	Jan 09	Realism I - Plato
3	Jan 14	Realism II - Aristotle
4	Jan 16	Realism III – Leibniz and Mendelssohn
5	Jan 21	Constructivism I - Hume
6	Jan 23	Constructivism II – Kant and Schiller
7	Jan 28	Constructivism III – Horkheimer and Adorno
8	Jan 30	Historicism I - Dilthey
9	Feb 04	Historicism II - Gadamer
10	Feb 06	Historicism III - Sartre
11	Feb 11	Test #1
		Unit Two – Art’s Place in Traditional Philosophy
12	Feb 13	Art and Religion I - Aquinas
	Feb 18	No Class – Fall Break
	Feb 20	No Class – Fall Break
13	Feb 25	Art and Religion II - Hegel
14	Feb 27	Art and Religion III - Schopenhauer
15	Mar 03	Art and Philosophy I - Dilthey
16	Mar 05	Art and Philosophy II - Hegel
17	Mar 10	Art and Philosophy III - Schelling
18	Mar 12	The Death and Afterlife of Art I - Hegel
19	Mar 17	The Death and Afterlife of Art II – Ortega y Gasset
20	Mar 19	The Death and Afterlife of Art III - Barthes
21	Mar 24	Test #2
		Unit Three – Art and Twentieth Century Philosophy
22	Mar 26	Art and Phenomenology – Merleau-Ponty
23	Mar 31	Art and Analytic Philosophy - Goodman
24	Apr 02	Art and Critical Theory - Habermas
25	Apr 07	Concluding Remarks

Assessment:

Students’ performance in the course will be assessed by two tests, a term paper, and a final project. The tests will be equally-weighted, non-cumulative, and held in class, with the first test covering the material from unit one and the second test covering the material from unit two. These tests will involve short answer and fill-in-the-blank style questions to test understanding of the course material. The term paper will be assigned early in the term, due on March 3rd, contribute as much to the final mark as one test

would, and involve independent research on a topic in philosophy and art. And the final project will be assigned on the last class and be due at the end of the exam period, it will involve a reflection on the topics discussed in unit three.

29% - Noncumulative Test #1 on Unit I, held in class on Feb 11.

29% - Term Paper, due March 03.

29% - Noncumulative Test #2 on Unit II, held in class on Mar 24.

13% - Final Project, due April 25.

Readings:

Readings will be assigned for each class from a variety of sources, provided online via the course webpage.

Class Expectations:

To keep up with the class work, students are expected to attend the lectures and complete the readings in a timely fashion. To be awarded marks in an assessment, students are required to be present on the scheduled day to write each test, or to submit each paper/project on the due date, or to formally request rescheduling at the earliest reasonable notice only on the basis of a documented or comparably reasonable excuse for being unable to write the test on the scheduled day.

To facilitate engaging the class material and preparing for the test, brief summaries of the major points discussed in class will be provided on the course webpage. However, these will not serve as an adequate alternative to attending the lectures, and will include only the major points students are expected to remember, without the explanation of them provided during the scheduled lectures.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Survivors of Sexual Violence: as a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735