

## Philosophy 8

## Philosophy of Art

Summer 2000

**Lecture: TWTh 10:00 - 12:30**

**Section: TW 1:30-2:30**

**123 Wheeler Hall**

**224 Wheeler Hall**

### **Instructor: Elisabeth Camp**

*Office Hours:* □ Thursday 1-3, and by appointment  
in 301 Moses Hall

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*Website for the class:* <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~frege/gsi/liz.html>  
all handouts will be available on the web site

### **TA: Loyd Gattis** □

*Office Hours:* 9:30-10:00 Wednesday, 9-10 Thursday  
in 301 Moses Hall

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All materials for this course are compiled in a reader, available now at:  
Odin Copiers, 2146 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford.

### **Course Description:** □

This course will investigate what art in general is, and how, in the light of what it is, we ought to appreciate particular works of art. To this end, we will take up a series of related questions: How do works of art come to have the meaning they do? What kinds of meaning do they have? Is there a distinctive attitude we take toward art objects? Is adopting that attitude sufficient to make any object into a work of art? What makes art in general valuable; that is, why do we care about it?

A philosophical discussion of art runs the risk of becoming so abstract that we forget that we're talking about a quite concrete and rich range of phenomena. In order to counteract this danger, I will try to bring the philosophical claims under discussion to bear on particular works of art. I encourage you to do the same, in class and in your own thinking.

### **Course Requirements:** □

- Two take-home exams, essay format.
- A final paper, about 5 pages long.
- Daily readings: you will be expected to have done the reading when you come to class. *Always* bring the reading with you to class.
- Attendance and participation in lecture and section.

Each written assignment will be worth 30% of the final grade. 10% of the final grade will be determined by lecture and section attendance and participation. Late exams and papers will be accepted *only* with a valid, verifiable excuse.

In addition to these requirements, I will post study questions for the reading material on the course web site by the beginning of each week. These questions are not assigned, but they will help to give you a guide through the readings, and a sense of where the discussion will be leading. If you must miss either lecture or discussion, you will be expected to make up the absence by writing a short response (less than a page) to a study question of your choice.

## ***Topics and Readings:***

### ***I. The Source of Meaning: Nature, Genius, Society, Interpreter***

Tuesday 23: *Introduction*

Wednesday 24: *History of the Debate*

Plato: *Ion*

Aristotle: *Poetics* (excerpt)

Shelley: "A Defense of Poetry" (excerpt)

Wordsworth: "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"

Thursday 24: *New Criticism and Reader Response*

Beardsley: "Artist's Intention" (*Aesthetics* §1)

Wimsatt & Beardsley: "The Intentional Fallacy" (excerpt)

Fish: "Is There a Text in This Class?"

Tuesday 30: *The New Intentionalism*

Hirsch: "In Defense of the Author"

Cavell: "Fellini and Philomel" (excerpt from "A Matter of Meaning It")

Nehamas: "Writer, Text, Work, Author"

Danto: "Works of Art and Mere Real Things" (excerpt)

Wednesday 31: *Originality and Value*

Borges: "Pierre Menard, Author of Don Quixote"

Goodman: "Art and Authenticity"

Lessing: "What is Wrong with a Forgery?" (excerpt)

Danto: "The Artworld"

Thursday 1: *Review, Application to Other Genres* **First Exam Handed Out**

### ***II. Aesthetic Properties: Meaning and Material***

Tuesday 6: *Expressive properties: representational and emotional* **First Exam Due**

Wollheim: *Art and Its Objects* (excerpt)

Bell: "The Aesthetic Hypothesis"

Nietzsche: excerpt from *The Genealogy of Morals* (on Schopenhauer)

Wednesday 7: *Ideal and Presentational Theories*

Beardsley: "The Perceptual and the Physical" (*Aesthetics* §2)

Collingwood: "Art as Expression and Imagination" (excerpt)

Thursday 8: *Material and Medium*

Dewey: "Experience and Expression" (excerpt)

Bosanquet: "The Importance of the Medium"

### ***III. The Aesthetic Attitude***

Tuesday 13: *Pleasure and Pain*

Hume: "Of Tragedy" (excerpt)

Wednesday 14: *Distance and Make-Believe*

Bullough: "'Psychical Distance' as a Factor in Art and as an Aesthetic Principle"

Walton: 'Fearing Fictionally' (excerpt)

Thursday 15: *The Aesthetic Attitude and Art Objects* **Second Exam Handed Out**

IV. *The Function of Art: Instruction, Pleasure, or None*□

Tuesday 20: *Does Art Have a Function?* **Second Exam Due**

Horace: "The Art of Poetry" (excerpt)

Wednesday 21: *Art as Feeling*

Bentham: "The Rationale of Reward" (excerpt)

Tolstoy: "What is Art?" (excerpt)

Thursday 22: *Morality and Contemplation*

Nussbaum: "'Finely Aware and Richly Responsible': Literature and the Moral Imagination" (excerpt)

Scruton: "The Individuality of the Aesthetic Object" (excerpt) **Paper topics handed out**

V. *Evaluation and Definition of Art*

Tuesday 27: *Objectivity and Authority*

Babbitt: "Who Cares if You Listen?"

Harrison: "On Some Uses of 'Good'"

Wednesday 28: *Definition Revisited*

Weitz: "On the Role of Theory in Aesthetics"

Thursday 29: Course Review

**Final Papers due Friday June 30 at 5:00 p.m.**