

Instructor: Dr. John Kress
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Office Hours: M W 2:00 - 3:00 pm or by appointment. I am usually able to meet briefly immediately after class.

Course Description: Two very important and closely related philosophical questions are *What is the Beautiful?* and *What is Art?* This class will explore the some of the connections between art and the beautiful. We will do so first by undertaking a close reading of some of the most significant contributions to the philosophy of art, from the ancients to the the medievals to the moderns. We will pay particular attention to the way in which the dominant conception of beauty shifts from the objective realm to the subjective that of art from imitative in essence to essentially creative.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a preliminary understanding of the philosophical problem of the beautiful.
2. To gain a preliminary understanding of the philosophical problem of art.
3. To gain experience in the application of aesthetic theory to concrete works of art.

Required Texts:

Philosophies of Art & Beauty, eds. Albert Hofstadter and Richard Kraus
Aesthetics, eds. David Goldbatt and Lee B. Brown

Course Assignments and Requirements:

Reading: Most of the texts we will be reading are fairly difficult. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to do your reading. 15 pages of Aristotle is equal to 30 pages of many other writers! By the same token, don't expect to completely understand a difficult philosophical text on a first reading. Take your time, read slowly and carefully, think about (and talk about) the reading, and when you can, re-read.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is required. Students should attend every class, if possible. It is your responsibility to audibly answer the class roll call. Your overall class grade will be adjusted according to the number of *unexcused* absences you have, as follows: 0 = +4, 1 = +2, 2 = +1, 3 = 0, 4 = -2, 5 = -4, 6 = -7, 7 = -11, 8 = -16, etc. *Excused absences* will be given for 1. *medical or family emergencies*, 2. *religious observances*, and 3. *events authorized by the College*. For an absence to be excused, you must provide appropriate documentation.

Lateness: Students are expected to be on time to class. Any student not present when roll is called will be counted absent for the class.

Class Participation: All students are expected to come to class having done the reading carefully and prepared to listen and take part in class discussion of the material. You will find you get a lot more out of class if you have completed the reading. While it is not required that everyone be equally vocal in class, everyone is expected to participate in discussion to some extent. Attendance does not count as participation.

Discussion Days: Certain days are marked on the Reading Schedule as "discussion days." On these days, students are required to come to class with a question for discussion about one or more of the recent readings.

Exams: Two non-cumulative exams, a midterm and a final. Both will be given on Blackboard, and will consist of two parts, a Factual Section with true/false, multiple choice, etc. and an Essay Section in which you will be required to write one of more short essays on the material.

Papers: Two required papers. The first paper will be 1200 words (~4 pages) and will consist of the exposition and analysis of an aesthetic theory. The second paper will be 1800-2400 words (~6-8 pages) and will consist of an aesthetic analysis of a particular work of art by means of an aesthetic theory. Papers should be submitted by email, in the following format: Font: Arial 12 pt, line spacing 1.5, margins .75, with a space between paragraphs.

Grading and Evaluation:

Scale: Grading will be according to the standard scale of A, B, C, D & F with + and -.

Breakdown:	Class Participation	12%
	Midterm exam	22%
	Final exam	22%
	1 st Paper	22%
	2 nd Paper	22%

Late Papers and Rewrites: I will accept late papers, but the paper grade will be reduced by one letter grade per class day the paper is late. As this is not a writing intensive class, rewrites will not be accepted.

Honor Code: As with all classes at Oxford, the Student Honor Code will be taken very seriously in this class. Honor code violations include plagiarism and the use of outside source material (including online sources such as Wikipedia) during online exams. You can find an online copy of the Code here:
http://www.oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/academics/academic_success/honor_code.dot