



## Philosophy of Art

### Unit of Study Outline

---

#### 1. Unit of study information

This course investigates theories regarding art's origins by asking: What is art? What is the significance of art? How is art to be understood? Theories of Aesthetics and the philosophy of art, varieties of art, interpretation, expression and emotional responses, pictorial representation and the visual arts, and the value of art will be surveyed and discussed during the course. In considering those concepts of art's philosophy, it's important to make critical thinking to actual works of art. Students and lecturer are encouraged to bring (reproductions of) artworks to class. Also, an Art Museum trip may be assigned and theories may be applied when visiting.

#### 2. Pre-requisite units and assumed knowledge

Basic English reading and analysis skills

#### 3. Learning aims and outcomes

When students complete this course, they will

- Have the experience to explore specific theories on art and aesthetics
- Understand how these theories can be incorporated
- Understand how "What is art?" and "What is the aesthetic?" fit into daily life.

#### 4. Weighting of final grade

Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

Midterm Exam: 20%  
Assignments: 30%  
Paper after Visiting Museum 10%

## 5. Grading

A	100-95	A-	94-90	B+	89-87
B	86-83	B-	82-80	C+	79-77
C	76-73	C-	72-70	D+	69-67
D	66-63	D-	62-60	F	59 or lower

## 6. Policies

### Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 20% absences of the total teaching hours will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. F students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

### Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade will be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, frequent visiting your instructors and chatting in English during their office hours is highly recommended.

### Policy on Assignments and Quizzes

Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. Assignment should be submitted on the date appointed by the instructor. If a student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse will be

needed. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80. An assignment that is late for 3 days will be corrected but receive 0.

You are recommended print all your assignment in the uniform format with the heading of Student's Pledge of no cheating. Written assignment or printed ones without the uniform heading of pledge will receive a maximum grade of 80.

It is mandatory to have weekend assignment every week. Any weekend assignment should be submitted on first class of next week.

It is mandatory to have holiday assignment on the public holidays. Any holiday assignment should be submitted on the first day on returning to school.

Students are required to do a multitude of presentations during the course.

### **Plagiarism**

Any form of cheating is NEVER tolerated. Any student ONCE caught cheating on a quiz, assignment or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the whole semester. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, the sources must be clearly identified (using quotes, bibliography and giving reference).

### **Classroom Policies**

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. Please speak in English rather than Chinese in class.
3. Students are not allowed to attend class without textbooks.
4. Stand up when answering questions.
5. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
6. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
7. Take good care of the laboratory facilities. Do not splash water on the desktop.
8. When each class is over, hang the earphone on the hanger. Put the trash into the trash-bin.
9. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
10. All communications with the teacher must be in English, both inside and outside class time.

## **7. Texts and other recourses**

Davies, Stephen (2006) *The Philosophy of Art*, Blackwell Publishing

## 8. Teaching methods

Lectures, group discussion, museum visit

## 9. Week by week topic and study guide

<b>Week 1</b>	Chapter 1	The Biological Art's Foundation
<b>Week 2</b>		Art: the Product of a Particular Time and Culture
<b>Week 3</b>	Chapter 2	Conditions and Essentialism to Define Art
		Arguments against Art's Definition
<b>Week 4</b>		Some Definitions of Art
		Definitions and Non-Western Art
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapter 3	Aesthetic and Artistic Properties
		Artworks that Pose a Challenge to Aesthetic Theory
<b>Week 6</b>		Art's Contextually Relative Properties
		Art for Art's Sake
<b>Week 7</b>		<b>Midterm Exam &amp; Museum Visit</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	Chapter 4	Varieties of Art and its Ontology
<b>Week 9</b>	Chapter 5	When Is Interpretation Necessary? & What is Interpreted?
		Intentionalism
<b>Week 10</b>		Uses for Interpretation
		Purpose of Interpretation
<b>Week 11</b>	Chapter 6	The Nature of Emotions
		Emotions in Art
<b>Week 12</b>		The Expression of Emotion in Music and Abstract Art
		The Emotional Response of the Audience to the Work of Art
<b>Week 13</b>	Chapter 7	The Experience of Representation
		Representation and Resemblance
		Representation: Culture and Biology
		Art Versus Non-Art
<b>Week 14</b>		Representation in Photographs and Paintings
		Photographic Representation
		Photography as an Art
		Moving Images
<b>Week 15</b>	Chapter 8	Evaluation and Functionality
		Purpose and Form of Artistic Evaluation

<b>Week 16</b>		What is Rewarding about the Experience of Art
		Artistic and Moral Value
<b>Week 17</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>