PHIL 4390: Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Art
Fall 2013
Time: TR 3:30-4:45
Location: CS-108

Instructor: Ana-Maria Andrei, PhD
Office: TBA
Office Hours: T 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm, R 5 pm - 6 pm and by appointment (location TBA)
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Course Description
The course will introduce you to a number of central problems in the philosophy of art. We will discuss a series of classical and contemporary texts which articulate and attempt to answer questions such as: What is art? Should art be defined as imitation of reality, intuitive expression or perhaps significant form? Can an artwork be perceptually indistinguishable from an object that isn’t art? If so, what does that tell us about the nature of art? Could this very same artwork have come into existence in a very different historical context, or is an artifact’s location in the history of art production essential to its identity as an artwork? Are there any universal standards of taste, or should we be aesthetic relativists? What are the distinctive traits of aesthetic experience? Does aesthetic experience require a special attitude characterized by “disinterestedness,” which isolates the work from its surroundings and precludes any practical involvement with it? Does the interpretation of art have to take into account the author’s intentions? Are works that express immoral attitudes necessarily aesthetically flawed, or do ethical blemishes sometimes have no relevance to questions of beauty?
The course will favor the methodology of analytic philosophy of art, and hence will emphasize clear and careful thought, discussion and writing about philosophical problems, as well as the development of argument reconstruction and critical analysis skills.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course you should be able to:

- articulate a number of core problems in the philosophy of art
- characterize the central philosophical positions covered in the course and reconstruct the main arguments supporting them
- evaluate philosophical views and arguments in this field
- effectively defend a point of view of your own on the problems discussed

Required Texts
All readings, except for those marked with an asterisk, are from
The texts that are not in this anthology will be made available as pdf files on Blackboard. Please make sure you always bring along a copy of the current reading assignment when you come to class.

**Course Requirements**
- two exams, the second of which will be cumulative; each exam consists in a series of multiple choice and short answer questions;
- a 6 page essay in which you focus on one of the problems we have discussed and carry the philosophical discussion a bit further by adopting one of the following three strategies: a) you develop a new criticism against one of the views proposed as solutions to the problem, b) you defend such a view from a criticism which, although significant, seems to you in the end to fail, or c) you offer a positive argument of your own in support of such a view (you will receive a separate handout with detailed guidelines about how to write a philosophy paper); on November 14 you will submit a first draft of the essay, which you will then revise in light of the feedback received; the final version of the paper should be turned in on December 8;
- unannounced quizzes on the assigned reading;
- active participation in class discussion is highly recommended as the best way to further your comprehension of the material and get feedback on your ideas.

**Grading Policy**
Grade breakdown:
- exam 1 20%
- exam 2 30%
- paper first draft 15%
- paper final version 20%
- 15 quizzes 1% each

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:
Over 90% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
Below 60 = F

**Attendance and Late Work Policy**
Missing more than 3 classes will negatively impact your final grade. No late work will be accepted, unless due to extreme circumstances.

**Students with Disabilities**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall #116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.
Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Course Schedule

Introduction (Elements of Philosophical Methodology. Analytic Philosophy of Art: Concepts, Problems, Techniques)
Week 1 (September 5)
Noel Carroll*, “Introduction,” from Philosophy of Art (pdf)

Defining Art
Week 2 (September 10, 12): Representationalism
Plato, excerpt from The Republic
Aristotle, excerpt from Poetics
Week 3 (September 17, 19): Expressivism
Benedetto Croce, “Aesthetics”
Week 4 (September 24, 26): Formalism and The Institutional Theory of Art
Clive Bell, “Art”
George Dickie, “What is Art: An Institutional Analysis”
Week 5 (October 1, 3): Institutional and Historical Accounts of Art
Arthur Danto, “The Artworld”
Noel Carroll, “Identifying Art”

Are There Principles of Taste? The Judgment of Taste and its Claim to Universality
Week 6 (October 8, 10)
David Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste”
Immanuel Kant, “Critique of Judgment”
**Week 7** (October 15, 17)
Monroe Beardsley*, “On the Generality of Critical Reasons” (pdf)
Frank Sibley, “Aesthetic Concepts”
**Week 8** (October 22, 24)
**General Review**

**Exam 1**

**Theories of Aesthetic Experience. The Aesthetic Attitude**

**Week 9** (October 29, 31)
Arthur Schopenhauer, “The World as Will and Representation”
John Dewey, “Art as Experience”

**Week 10** (November 5, 7)
Edward Bullough, “Psychical Distance” as a Factor in Art and an Aesthetic Principle
George Dickie, “The Myth of the Aesthetic Attitude”

**Art and Interpretation: Varieties of Intentionalism**

**Week 11** (November 12, 14)
W. K. Wimsatt and Monroe Beardsley, “The Intentional Fallacy”
Noel Carroll, “Art, Intention and Conversation”

[first draft due on November 14]

**Week 12** (November 19, 21)
Alexander Nehamas, “The Postulated Author: Critical Monism as a Regulative Ideal”
Jenefer Robinson, “Style and Personality in the Literary Work”

**Art, Morality and Feminism**

**Week 13** (November 26)
Monroe Beardsley*, excerpt from *Aesthetics* (pdf)
Berys Gaut, “The Ethical Criticism of Art”

**Week 14** (December 3, 5)
Curtis Brown*, “Art, Oppression and the Autonomy of Aesthetics” (pdf)

[final version of paper due on December 8]

**General Review**

**Week 15** (December 10)

**Exam 2** will be held on the assigned final exam date