

Topics in Aesthetics

730: 461

Spring 2013

Tuesday, Thursday, 4th Period, Murray 213, College Avenue Campus

Instructor: Professor Peter Kivy

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 2:45-4:00 (and by appointment)

Learning Goals:

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students, at the advanced level, with philosophical problems that arise in our thinking about the fine arts and aesthetic concepts. The course will center on some four major texts in the discipline. The emphasis will always be on how to construct rational arguments in defense of any given theory. And it is to be hoped that the successful student will not only leave the course with knowledge of the subject matter but with increased skills in rational argument and increased ability to evaluate evidence and question the opinions of others

Conduct of the Course

The course will be taught, as much as possible, as a discussion class. In order for this to work, you must have the reading assignment completed before class. If you don't, you will not be able to take part in the discussion, and you will not understand what is going on in class. You will be very bored.

There will be two examinations in this class, a mid-term examination, the date of which will be announced early in the semester, and a final examination, the date of which is listed in the Rutgers Final Examination Schedule. Both examinations will be essay examinations. Reading assignments will be made in class. The assignments will not be long, in terms of number of pages. But philosophical texts are not easy, so you will have to allow more time for the number of pages assigned than you would if you were reading a literary text.

Regular class attendance is required for credit in this course. If, for any reason, you feel you will not be able to fulfill this requirement, do not take this course.

I do not allow the use of computers in class.

Texts

Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment, trans. Werner S. Pluhar (Hackett paperback)

Arthur Danto, The Transfiguration of the Commonplace (Harvard University Press paperback)

Noel Carroll: A Philosophy of Mass Art (Oxford University Press paperback)

Ted Cohen: Jokes (University of Chicago Press paperback)

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