The Meaning of the Arts
Temple University
Philosophy 0847, Section 06
General Education Arts Class
MWF 9:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m.
Anderson Hall 00005
Fall 2013

Instructor: Tal Correm
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Office hours: MW 10-11 a.m. and by appointment
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Course Overview:
The Meaning of the Arts undertakes central questions in philosophy of art and aesthetics concerning the nature of art and its value, and the ways to understand, evaluate and interpret works of art. We will explore various philosophical perspectives on the arts, such as those of Plato, Kant, Nietzsche, Barthes, and Danto. The course involves close reading of philosophical arguments and art theory, evaluating and responding to them in discussion and writing. Our theoretical analyses will be supplemented by experiential engagement with artworks through a museum visit, short clips, films, visual and audio examples, and student presentations.

Course Learning Objectives:
At the end of this course, it is my goal that you will:
• Be able to read, interpret, and evaluate some central texts in the philosophy of art and aesthetics;
• Develop your ability to think critically about philosophical issues and argue your point in discussion with others and in writing;
• Learn to recognize and understand a work of art or creative process in its social, historical, and cultural context;
• Learn to appreciate the value of art and its contribution to your personal and social experience.

Course Materials:
• All required and recommended readings, interactive, audio and visual materials will be available online, through the Blackboard course website.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:
• Summary of Assignments
  o Class Participation 15%
  o Discussion Board Posts: 20%
  o Class Presentation: 15%
  o Independent Field Study: 20%
  o Final Paper: 30%
• **Class Participation**
  - Participation is based upon active involvement in discussion and group work, engaged reading and preparing for class, answering questions when called upon, and attendance. You should complete the required readings and write down at least two questions for classroom discussion. We will use these questions in class and I will collect them from time to time.

• **Discussion Board Posts**
  - You will make an original post to the discussion and comment on two posts of your classmates for at least 8 weeks of the term. The first one is mandatory.
  - Each original response must be at least 250 words, but no more than 500. Responses that are either too short or too long will be penalized. Comments on others' posts should be between 100 and 250 words.
  - Each week I will post questions to the discussion board’s forum of that week. Your original post will address one of these questions.
  - Original responses can be posted on each day of the week and no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesdays. Comment responses can be posted on each day of the week and no later than 11:59 p.m. on Thursdays.
  - **Extra credit**: you can earn extra credit if you complete discussion board posts for 10 weeks (original and comment posts, 30 in total).

• **Class Presentation**
  - You will present one short in-class presentation in pairs (10-15 minutes) on a topic of your choice. Topics can be one of the themes in philosophy of art, artist, art movement, or artworks.
  - Further detailed instructions of the assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

• **Independent Field Study**
  - You will complete one response report following an individual visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art or another art venue. On the week of the Independent Field Study (November 18) there will be no scheduled classes. You are required to use your class and homework time to engage directly with art and prepare a written assignment. The response report is due on **November 25, 2013**.
  - Further detailed instructions of the assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard before the assignment is due.

• **Final Paper**
  - You will need to write an essay, minimum 6 pages, double-spaced, consists of a critical comparison between the theories of at least two thinkers on one of the topics of the course. You will need to submit a proposal (250 words) on December 2, 2013 in which you will describe the topic and problems you will address and the thesis you will argue for in the paper. You will need to bring your printed proposal to class in the last week of the semester. Final paper is due on **December 10, 2013**.
  - Further detailed instructions of the assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard before the assignment is due.

At the end of the course letter grades will be assigned approximately according to the following scale:

- **A** = 94-100
- **A-** = 90-93
- **B+** = 87-89
- **B** = 83-86
- **B-** = 80-82
- **C+** = 77-79
- **C** = 73-76
- **C-** = 70-72
- **D+** = 67-69
- **D** = 63-66
- **D-** = 60-62
- **F** = below 59
Course Policies:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance is necessary to maintain your participation grade. Arrive and be prepared by 9:00 a.m. Tardiness or leaving early will affect participation for that day. If you miss 9 or more classes, the highest grade you can receive for the course is a C. If you miss 15 or more classes, you will fail the course.

- **Lateness:** It is important for all of us to be working on the same material at the same time, so late work will not be accepted. That is, if you miss a deadline you will not receive any credit for the assignment. If for some reason you cannot complete an assignment it is your responsibility to notify me in advance and to provide proper documentation. Technical issues are not acceptable excuses for late work.

- **Technology:** You may not use cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices in class without my explicit permission since it can distract me and other students.

- **Communication** Check your Temple e-mail regularly. Class announcements such as updates, cancellations or assignment changes will be communicated by e-mail and/or Blackboard. When you email me (tal.correm@temple.edu), please type “Meaning of the Arts 06” followed by a brief description of the email's topic in the subject area. In general I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Although I often check email and the discussion board during the weekend, I cannot guarantee that I will respond to emails sent over the weekend.

- **Academic Conduct:** It is crucial that everyone be very respectful of each other in class and in the discussion threads. Take an extra minute before posting in a thread to make sure that your words and tone are appropriate. Counterarguments are always welcome, and in fact are encouraged; but when we disagree it is important to do so in a productive manner.

- **Caveat:** I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, schedule, and grading schema as the circumstances dictate. Any significant changes will be relayed to you in advance.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and academic cheating are prohibited by University policy. Your work must be your own, and all sources must be cited (including books, articles, electronic resources on the internet, pictures, or anything else you reference that has not been written or created by you). Anyone caught plagiarizing will fail the assignment or the course. See more detailed instructions on Temple Student Responsibilities.

*If you are uncertain about whether completing an assignment in a particular way is cheating or plagiarism please contact me.*

**Statement on Academic Freedom:** Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed at the following link: [http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02](http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02)

**Disability Statement:** This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:
Please print the readings and bring a copy to class at the beginning of the week they will be discussed and come prepared with questions. You are expected to have read the assigned materials before class and be ready to participate in discussions. In addition to the required readings, there are optional further recommended readings, if you wish to engage more deeply in any topic that interests you.

Week 1 (August 26) Philosophy and the Arts
   Welcome and Course Overview
   Stephen Davies, “Evolution and Culture.”

Week 2 (September 2) Global and Local Art
   Monday, September 2: Labor Day holiday
   Cynthia Freeland, “Cultural Crossings.”
   Sign-up for presentations

Week 3 (September 9) Truth, Reality and the Arts
   Monday, September 9: Last day to drop a course
   Plato, from the Republic.
   Christopher Janaway, “Plato.”
   Aristotle, from the Poetics (Recommended)
   Nickolas Pappas, “Aristotle.” (Recommended)
   Required: First discussion board posts
   Student presentations

Week 4 (September 16) Beauty and Taste
   David Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste.”
   Christopher Janaway, “Commentary on Hume.”
   Student presentations

Week 5 (September 23) Beauty and Aesthetic Judgments
   Immanuel Kant, “Analytic of the Beautiful.”
   Donald W. Crawford, “Kant.”
   Immanuel Kant, “Analytic of the Sublime.” (Recommended)
   Student presentations

Week 6 (September 30) Art, Life and Value
   Friedrich W. Nietzsche, from The Birth of Tragedy.
   Christopher Janaway, “Commentary on Nietzsche.”
   Student presentations

Week 7 (October 7) Art and Society
   Film: Exit through the Gift Shop.
   Nicholas Alden Riggle, “Street Art: The Transfiguration of the Commonplaces.”
   (Recommended)
Week 8 (October 14) Art, Expression and Emotion
Leo Tolstoy, from *What is Art?*
Derek Matravers, “Art, Expression and Emotion.”
Student presentations

Week 9 (October 21) Art and Form
*Tuesday, October 22: Last day to withdraw from a course*
Clive Bell, “The Aesthetic Hypothesis.”
Clement Greenberg, “Modernist Painting.”
Noël Carroll, “Formalism.” (Recommended)
Student presentations

Week 10 (October 28) Art and Technology
Cynthia Freeland, “Digitizing and disseminating.” (Recommended)
Student presentations

Week 11 (November 4) Art, Interpretation and Institutions
George Dickie, “Defining Art.”
Stephen Davies, “Definitions of Art.” (Recommended)
Student presentations

Week 12 (November 11) Art and Gender
Linda Nochlin, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?”
Cynthia Freeland, “Gender, genius, and Guerrilla Girls.” (Recommended)
Student presentations

Week 13 (November 18) Independent Field Study
Independent field study at the Philadelphia Museum of Art or an art venue

Week 14 (November 25) Art, Society, and Culture
*Independent field study response report DUE on Monday, November 25, 2013.*
*Thursday, November 28-Sunday, December 1: Thanksgiving holiday break*

Week 15 (December 2) Review and Final Paper Preparation
Paper conferences
Review and Warp-up
*Wednesday, December 4: Weekday classes end*

Final Papers DUE by 11:59 on December 10, 2013.