

Philosophy 331/ Fine Arts 338 Philosophy of Art
Fall 2012, T/Th 1-2:30, HH 139

Course website: is on Desire to Learn (henceforth “Learn”), accessible via www.uwaterloo.ca

This course is co-instructed by Shannon Dea and Mathieu Doucet. Here is their respective contact information:

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Professor: Mathieu Doucet
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Course Description:

This course introduces students to some core issues in the philosophy of art via lectures, discussions, readings, group and individual work, and field trips. What exactly is art? What is beauty, and what does beauty have to do with art? What roles do representation and interpretation play in art? Does the artist’s (or the subject’s) gender affect our understanding of art? The answers to these questions are anything but obvious.

Expected course outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following things:

Course content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accurately summarize some key issues and arguments in the philosophy of art; ● Explain key concepts in the philosophy of art, such as “artworld”, “mimesis”, “immoralism”, and “écriture feminine”;
Applying your knowledge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critically evaluate key arguments in the philosophy of art; ● Deploy concepts from the philosophy of art to analyse various types of artworks;
Reading and writing in the discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read and accurately exposit philosophical texts; ● Write careful, focused, well-organized philosophical prose about individual texts and issues.

Texts:

All readings for the course will be available electronically through the course LEARN webpage, either as PDFs, via links to external webpages, or through a link to the Library’s eReserve system. See the course Learn site for a bibliography of required readings for the course.

Work required:

2 online quizzes	15% each = 30%
4 online reading responses	2.5% each = 10%

Sparks	10%
Short paper (3 pages)	15%
Term paper (5 pages)	35%
Total	100%

The fine print:

Quizzes: The two online quizzes will be completed through LEARN on October 18 and November 29, respectively. The instructors will announce more details closer to those dates.

Reading responses:

- Throughout the course of the term, you must submit 4 reading responses through LEARN. Each is worth 2.5% of your final grade, for a total of 10%.
- You may submit a Reading Response for any of the assigned readings, which means that there are 19 possible opportunities. Reading Responses are due by 9:00 am of the day scheduled for the reading in question. (So, for example, the Reading Response for Hume’s “Of the Standard of Taste” is due by 9:00 am on Tuesday, Sept. 18th.) Absolutely no late responses will be accepted.
- You must submit at least two of your reading responses by Oct. 25th. You are, of course, free to submit more before then.
- Each Reading Response has three questions. First, identify the conclusion and summarize the argument of the reading. Second, identify the element of the reading that you found most interesting, persuasive, well argued, or thought provoking, and explain why. Third, identify the element of the reading that you found most problematic, least persuasive, or most in need of further elaboration, and explain why.
- The aim of the reading responses is twofold:
 - First, to encourage you to read with an eye to critically evaluating arguments—identifying conclusions and premises, assessing their strengths and weaknesses, and looking for assumptions and counter-arguments.
 - Second, to get you practiced writing philosophical prose. The best way to develop this skill is to practice it. What’s more, when it comes time to write your papers you will have an already existing store of explanations and critical reflections.

Sparks:

- Starting on Sept. 13th you must write a Spark for each new reading and bring it to class. A Spark is a question or brief comment about the reading that will prompt or ‘spark’ discussion, so you must write them prior to the beginning of class. We’ll start each meeting by spending a few minutes sharing our Sparks, which will enable us to get into discussion.
- You need to write your Spark on a 3”x5” index card (we’ll supply a stack of these in the first week of class), and label it with your name and the date. All Sparks are turned in prior to the end of class.

- Any meeting with an assigned reading requires a Spark. This means that there are 19 meetings to which you need to bring a Spark. One of main expectations of the class is that you arrive for each meeting prepared to discuss the core issues in the reading, and the aim of the Sparks is to help you to do this constructively.
- Sparks are marked Pass/Fail. So long as you give evidence of having engaged with the text, you get full credit.
- Sometimes, life gets in the way, and we can't come to class as prepared as we'd like. (For example, we get sick, or get called into work at the last minute.) On the occasions when you are not sufficiently prepared to bring a Spark to class, you can just write "Pass" on your card (still labeled with your name and the date). You can "Pass" up to 5 times in the term with no penalty.
- If you "Pass" 6 or more times, you will receive 0/10 for the Sparks portion of the grade. Absences count as a "Pass". Sparks cannot be handed in late, and except for under extraordinary circumstances absences due to illness count as a "Pass." (If you think that your circumstances are extraordinary, contact one of the professors right away to discuss them.)

Papers: Papers must be submitted electronically via Learn by noon on the date they are due. Any assignment submitted after noon will be considered one day late. Late essays are subject to a penalty of 5% per business day. There are two due dates for the term paper. Students who wish to receive both comments and a grade must submit their papers two days earlier than those who wish to receive a grade, but who do not require comments. (See schedule below for details.) All short papers will receive comments. Students must appropriately acknowledge sources for their papers, and must avoid plagiarism, including uncited close paraphrases of sources. For more details on standards of academic honesty in this course, see the assignments and supporting materials on the Learn site for the course. We will make more details available about the papers closer to their due dates.

Field trips: Two field trips will be held during regularly scheduled class time. Attendance is mandatory. In particular, participation in both field trips will be required in order to write the two course papers. Both field trips will occur within Kitchener-Waterloo, either within walking distance of the university, or an easy Grand River Transit ride away from campus. They will be free or very cheap. (Details to be announced closer to the dates.) If there is any cost associated with either trip, and if that cost is difficult for you to afford, please contact one of the professors and we will try to make special arrangements for you. Similarly, should the location of either field trip pose accessibility challenges for you, please contact one of the professors so that we can adapt the plan accordingly.

Learn Site and Email: The instructors will post details concerning quizzes, assignments, etc. on the course Learn site. It is the individual student's responsibility to check this on a regular basis. From time to time, the instructors will send students important emails regarding (for instance) readings, assignments, review sessions and tests (or -- if they should arise -- last minute emergencies that affect a scheduled lecture). If you would rather receive these emails at your home account (e.g., hotmail, gmail, rogers...), then you must enter that email address on your WatIAM entry. To log on to WatIAM and update your entry, follow this link: <https://watiam.uwaterloo.ca/idm/user/login.jsp>. Log in and then click "Update Profile." Then,

select the “Email configuration” tab. It is your responsibility to stay current with course news by regularly checking whichever email account is listed on your WatIAM entry.

Special arrangements request form: If circumstances in your life pose an obstacle to your getting your work in on time, you may complete a special arrangements request form (available on the Learn site for the course) to propose an alternative arrangement. This form must be submitted 48 hours before the due date for the work. Submitting the form doesn't guarantee that your proposed special arrangement will be approved. However, the professor will give all requests serious consideration. Special arrangements requests received after this 48 hour cut-off will not be considered without medical or similar documentation. For the term paper, normally students who receive an extension will receive a grade only, no comments. All short papers will receive comments.

Schedule

Students are responsible for doing the assigned readings before the corresponding lectures. Lectures are intended to supplement, problematize and clarify the readings, not to replace them. Any material from course readings could be covered on the quizzes or essay assignments, whether it has been specifically discussed in the lectures or not.

University dates	Topic and Instructor	Week	Date	Readings/ Assignments/ Tests
Sept. 10 – lectures begin	Introduction (Dea and Doucet)	1	Sept. 11	
	Unit 1: Beauty and Value (Dea)		Sept. 13	Plato, selection from Symposium and Aristotle, Metaphysics XIII, M, iii
		2	Sept. 18	Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste”
Sept. 21 – open class enrolment ends			Sept. 20	Selections from Kant, Critique of Judgement and Burke, A Philosophical Enquiry
		3	Sept. 25	Danto, “Beauty and Beautification”
Sept. 28 – last day to drop a course with 100% refund and no penalty			Sept. 27	Higgins, “Beauty and its Kitsch Competitors”
	Field trip 1 (Dea and	4	Oct.	

	Doucet)		2	
	Unit 2: The Definition of Art (Doucet)		Oct. 4	Plato, <i>Republic</i> (Selections)
		5	Oct. 9	Beardsley, "An Aesthetic Definition of Art"
			Oct. 11	Danto, "The Artworld"
		6	Oct. 16	Davies "Non-Western Art and Art's Definition"
			Oct. 18	Class cancelled. Online quiz #1: available on Learn 00:00 to 23:59 Oct. 18.
	Field trip 2 (Dea and Doucet)	7	Oct. 23	
Oct. 26 – last day for 50% tuition refund	Unit 3: Representation and Interpretation (Doucet)		Oct. 25	Lessing, "What is Wrong with Forgery?" Deadline to submit second Reading Response. (The first must have been submitted sometime before the previous class.)
Petition to the Registrar to Register Late form required to become fees arranged after Oct. 31.		8	Oct. 30	Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy"
			Nov. 1	Livingston, "Intentionalism in Aesthetics"
		9	Nov. 6	Gaut, "Art and Ethics"
			Nov. 8	Eaton, "Robust Immoralism"
	Unit 4: Where are the Women? (Dea)	10	Nov. 13	Nead, "Theorizing the Female Nude"
			Nov.	Steiner, "The Monster Sublime"

			15	
Nov. 16 – drop period 1 ends. Last day to drop with a grade of WD		11	Nov. 20	Nochlin, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?”
			Nov. 22	Cixous, “The Laugh of Medusa”
		12	Nov. 27	Korsmeyer, “Deep Gender: Taste and Food” Deadline to submit fourth Reading Response. (The third must have been submitted sometime before previous class.)
Dec. 3 – lectures end. Dec. 5 – drop period 2 ends – last chance to drop without a petition.	Conclusion (Dea and Doucet)		Nov. 29	Online quiz #2: Available on Learn 00:00 to 23:59 Nov. 29. Term paper due noon Dec. 6. (Term paper due noon Dec. 4 if you want comments on it, in addition to a grade.)

More fine print:

Cross-listed course: Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/FINE cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the FINE rubric

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of her/his university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy

70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Verification of illness: Students who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor within 48 hours by submitting a completed UW Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. Students in distance education courses must also provide confirmation of the illness but submit it to the Distance Education Office. The UW Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available on line at:

http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.

Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion; doctors' notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable. Health Services charges a \$10 fee for completing the University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form, which is not covered by OHIP/UHIP. Fees for this service levied by off-campus practitioners are the student's responsibility.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change, with notice. The version of the syllabus posted on Learn will be the most up-to-date one available and will always constitute the official version.