PHIL 3120 — Philosophy of Art

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Office Hours: by appointment

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1 Catalog Description

An analysis of the nature of art and esthetic experience, and its significance in human life. The course may cover all forms of art, or concentrate on a few, for instance, literature, drama and music.

2 Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and assess philosophical arguments
- Make connections between philosophical ideas and personal experiences and perspectives
- Describe major philosophical positions in the philosophy of art
- Demonstrate personal philosophical reflection through writing

3 Student Learning Outcomes

- Increase foundational knowledge of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, or the arts
- Develop creative and critical thinking

4 Required Text

There is no required text for the course, required readings are available on Elearning. There is an optional text which I encourage you to get access to, *Introducing Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art*, 2nd Edition by Darren Hudson Hick.

5 Grading

Your grade will be composed of the following:

Discussion Posts & Replies	40%
Writing Assignments	30%
Quizzes	30%

Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A	90	Outstanding, exceptional, extraordinary
BA	85	
B	80	Very good, high pass
CB	75	
C	70	Satisfactory, acceptable, adequate
DC	65	
D	60	Poor
E		Failure

6 Assignments

The course is divided into 8 modules. Each module has corresponding assignments based on the readings and videos for that module. Due dates for all assignments are available on Elearning.

6.1 Discussion Posts and Replies

For each module, you're required to post 2 discussion posts of at least 250 words each and make 4 replies to discussion posts of at least 100 words each. Discussion posts should represent substantive engagement with the course material. Replies should represent substantive engagement with the course material as well as other students' posts. Examples of satisfactory and unsatisfactory discussion posts and replies are available on Elearning as well as tips for how to participate in philosophical discussions.

6.2 Quizzes

For each module, there is a multiple choice quiz covering the readings and video for that module. Reading questions are available for each module in order to guide you as you do the readings. If you can answer all of the reading questions, then you're in a good position to do well on the quiz.

6.3 Writing Assignments

There are two writing assignments. Due dates for the writing assignments are available on Elearning. Prompts for the writing assignments as well as a rubric, an example writing assignment, and tips for writing a philosophy paper are also available on Elearning.

7 Student Academic Conduct

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found here.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment.

8 Sexual Harassment

Federal law and WMU policy prohibit sexual harassment, sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual exploitation, harm to others, stalking, intimate partner violence and retaliation. By law, when campus officials are aware that such behavior occurs, they must investigate and take action to protect students' safety. According to WMU's new sexual assault policy, most WMU employees are not confidential resources, which

means that information you reveal may be shared with campus investigators, whether you want this to happen or not. Many victims/survivors prefer to seek confidential support and services.The YWCA offers 24/7, free support,which will inform and empower you to decide what options to pursue—emotional support, evidence collection (rape kit), pregnancy and STI tests, emergency contraception, counseling, filing a police report, seeking a protection order, initiating criminal prosecution, and/or reporting to WMU. The YWCA crisis line, available 24 hours, is (269) 385-3587. If you've experienced sexual or gender-based violence, and wish to have WMU investigate and take action, you may contact the Office of Institutional Equity directly at (269) 387-6316, or ask someone (preferably someone you trust) to report on your behalf.In addition, there is a reporting hotline that is not on WMU's servers that you may use if you'd like. This provides a "confidential and anonymous external option for members of the campus community to report good faith beliefs of occurrences that are in violation of law or established University requirements."

9 Disability Accommodation

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact `www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices`. A disability determination must be made by this office before any accommodations are provided by the instructor.

10 Course Schedule

Topic	Due Date	Reading
What is Art?	Sep. 10	Adajian, "The Definition of Art" Weitz, "The Role of Theory in Aesthetics" Dickie, "Defining Art" Levinson, "Defining Art Historically" Optional: Hick ch. 1
Aesthetic Realism	Sep. 24	Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste" Zangwill, "Aesthetic Realism I" Pettit, "The Possibility of Aesthetic Realism" Cova and Pain, "Can Folk Aesthetics Ground Aesthetic Realism?" Optional: Hick, ch. 2
Aesthetic Formalism	Oct. 8	Bell, *Art* ch. 1 Walton, "Categories of Art" Zangwill, "Feasible Aesthetic Formalism" Parsons, "Moderate Formalism as a Theory of the Aesthetic"
Art and Morality	Oct. 25	Carroll, "Moderate Moralism" Anderson and Dean, "Moderate Autonomism" Jacobson, "In Praise of Immoral Art" Eaton, "Robust Immoralism" Optional: Hick, ch. 6
Art and Emotion	Nov. 5	Radford, "How Can We Be Moved by the Fate of Anna Karenina?" Walton, "Fearing Fictions" Bouwsma, "The Expression Theory of Art" Levinson, "Music and Negative Emotion" Optional: Hick, ch. 5
Public Art	Nov. 19	Danto, "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial" Nguyen, "Monuments as Commitments" Timmerman, "A Case for Removing Confederate Monuments" Willard, "When Public Art Goes Bad"
Feminist Aesthetics	Dec. 3	Eaton, "Feminist Philosophy of Art" Nochlin, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?" Hein, "The Role of Feminist Aesthetics in Feminist Theory" Eaton, "What's Wrong with the (Female) Nude?"
Environmental Aesthetics	Dec. 17	Carlson, "Nature, Aesthetic Judgments, and Objectivity" Brady, "Imagination and the Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature" Lintott, "Ethically Evaluation Land Art" Loftis, "Three Problems for the Aesthetic Foundations of Environmental Ethics" Optional: Hick, ch. 8