Syllabus—Fine Art 310/Phil 310-01—Spring 2014

Department of Visual and Theatre Arts
the University of Tennessee at Martin
Class Location: Fine Arts 142
Aesthetics—MW 4:00-5:15 (3 credits, no prerequisites)
Instructor: Dr. Carol Eckert Office: FA 263 Ph: 881-7897 email: ceckert@utm.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:15-2:30 Tu/Th 12:30-2:15 Other times by appointment.

I. A. **TEXTBOOK:**
   - AND a good, portable college dictionary (brought to class each day)

B. **OTHER RESOURCES:**
   - www.artlex.com (online dictionary & links to other sites)
   - www.aesthetics-online.org/index.html (Am. Society of Aesthetics site)
   - www.artchive.com (image galleries database)

II. **COURSE PURPOSE, GOALS & OBJECTIVES**
   A basic course in aesthetics, dealing with such conceptual issues as the criteria of identity for works of art, the idea of style, of expression, the notion of the aesthetic attitude, the relevance of artists’ intentions to interpretations, and truth in literature and the arts. You will engage in analyzing these and similar notions with reference to examples from various art forms (painting, music, literature, theatre, etc.). You will develop your own aesthetic awareness as well as learning about the history of Aesthetics in the Western tradition beginning with the ancient Greeks. This course will also include an introduction to some Non-Western aesthetic theories. A paper, written reports and oral presentations are required.

III. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS & EVALUATION METHODS**
   Your performance in this course will be based on multiple factors: two exams, a research/opinion paper, a group presentation, four aesthetic reviews, in-class participation and activities, homework readings and activities, and attendance. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is integral to the exchange of ideas and therefore important to your performance in this course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point breakdown of class requirements:</th>
<th>Course grade point ranges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Research/Presentation</td>
<td>75 (25 pts. your part)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class part./disc, notes etc. (~10 ea.)</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibits, Performances reviews (25 ea.)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Total possible</td>
<td>600</td>
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**Attendance Policy:** You are expected to attend every class. In addition to not receiving credit for any in-class assignments the day you missed; for any absence over 3, excused or unexcused, 10 points will be subtracted from the final total of your grade. Being late for class, or leaving early, will accrue toward absences. No in-class or homework assignments may be made up unless you provide written proof of an excused absence. All work turned in late will be reduced one letter grade for each class it is late, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor due to an excused absence. There will be no make-ups on the final exam and make-ups will only be given for the mid-term if satisfactory proof of an excused absence is provided.

**Academic Honesty:** It is expected that all work completed for this course will be the work of the student, unless the information is cited as a reference source. Any form of cheating will not be tolerated.

**Note:** "Any student eligible for and requesting academic accommodations due to disability is required to provide a letter of accommodation from the Student Success Center Office of Disability Services within the first two weeks of the semester."
IV. CLASS READING, TOPIC & EXAM SCHEDULE  

FA/PHIL 310-01—Aesthetics-Spring 2014  

[Note: readings should be completed BEFORE class the date that they are listed]

1/13  m  first day of class: intro. to course, go over syllabus, pre-“test,” Calliope’s p. 1-8
1/15  w  Puzzles, Ch. 1, p. 1-12 & finish Calliope’s introduction
1/20  m  No classes—Martin Luther King Holiday
1/22  w  Puzzles Ch. 2 & Ch. 3, selected puzzles & divide up Calliope’s chapter (meet briefly)
1/27  m  In-class group work on assigned Calliope’s chapter (should have assigned ch. read)
1/29  w  Presentations—Calliope’s Ch. 1—San Aesthetics & Ch. 2—Inuit Aesthetics
2/3   m  Presentations—Calliope’s Ch. 3—Aboriginal Aus. Aes. & Ch. 4—Sepik Aesthetics
2/5   m  Presentation—Calliope’s Ch. 5—Navajo Aesthetics & Ch. 6—Yoruba Aesthetics
2/10  m  Discussion of the non-Western aesthetics covered so far
2/12  m  Presentation—Calliope’s Ch. 7—Aztec Aesthetics & Ch. 8—Aesthetics in Early India
2/17  w  Presentation—Calliope’s Ch. 9—Japanese Aesthetics & begin discussions
2/19  m  Discussion of the last three non-Western aesthetics  [Aes. Review #1 Due]
2/24  m  review for the midterm
2/26  w  Mid Term Exam
3/3-3/9  No Classes—Spring Break
3/10  m  Calliope’s Ch. 10—Western Aesthetics  [Aes. Review #2Due]
3/12  w  Calliope’s Ch. 11 & start Ch. 12
3/17  m  continue discussion of Calliope’s Ch. 12 and begin Calliope’s Ch. 13
3/19  w  finish Calliope’s Ch. 13 and start Ch. 14
3/24  m  Calliope’s Ch. 14
3/26  w  Puzzles Ch. 2 & 3 cont.—Modernism
3/31  m  Calliope’s Ch. 14, Modernism continued  [Aes. Review #3 Due]
4/2   w  Danto and Postmodernism, Puzzles Ch. 4
4/7   m  Puzzles Ch. 4 and Postmodernism  [PAPER DUE]
4/9   w  “  “  “
4/14  m  Puzzles Ch. 5
4/16  w  Calliope’s Sisters Ch. 15  [PAPER REVISION DUE]
4/21  m  Puzzles Ch. 6
4/23  w  Last Day of Regular classes—review for final  [Aes. Review #4 Due]

Final Exam is: Thursday, May 1st from 12:45-2:45 in Fine Arts 142
Aesthetic Reviews Instructions: Due: (25 pts. Each) no emailed papers are accepted
Attend and review four events in person. These could be art exhibits, dance performances, plays, music concerts, poetry/literary readings. I expect each subsequent review to be better than the last.
Your paper should be 1 ½-2 pages typed, double-spaced and should include these components:

1. **Describe** the event/work clearly and descriptively
2. **Interpret** the event/work—what do you think it meant? What was the artist/s trying to say? What did it say to you? How did the components of the work lend themselves to the interpretation?
3. **Judge** the event/work—do you think that the artist/s was successful? If so, how? If not, what was lacking? If some parts were strong and others weak, explain.

Do not simply say something like “they did a good job” without EXPLAINING what exactly they did to make it a “good job”. Be Specific.
And remember—a critique should focus on the work NOT the person. A critique is **not** criticizing

**“Default” Paper Assignment** note: again, no emailed papers are accepted

Title: “A Critical Description & Analysis of [Your Name Here]’s Aesthetic Philosophy”

Note: You are free to propose another topic for the paper for approval—otherwise, the above is it.

Due: Monday, April 7th.

Revision is due: Wednesday, April 16th

Length: Minimum of four typed, double-spaced pages in the MLA or APA style

Topic: As complete a description and delineation of your aesthetic philosophy as you can muster INCLUDING references to at least two predecessor’s philosophies that we have covered in class whose work has influenced your ideas either because you agree or because you disagree—adopted/adapted or rejected their ideas.

Whether you identify yourself as a Modernist, Postmodernist, absolutist, relativist, a deconstructionist, Kantian, Aristotelian, feminist, anti-art, mimetic, formalist or combinations of some of these—WHATEVER—you are expected to lay it out in a paper that includes parenthetical citations and references to the aesthetic philosophies and philosophers that we have covered in this course that your ideas relate to. Your paper should place your ideas among the ideas of several philosophers we’ve studied and the history of aesthetics—who you identify with, who you reject, who you question, etc.

Possible Aesthetic areas you may develop:
- What is your definition of Art? the Artist? The Art Object?
- Where is the Art located? The Artist, the Idea, the Viewer, the Idea?
- What is the “Aesthetic Experience?”
- Is the “aesthetic experience” a universal?
- Ideas on Beauty, on Beauty & Ugliness
- What makes Art, art? What distinguishes Art from Craft?
- What is NOT Art?
- Can something be artistic but not Art?
- Is Art an absolute or on a continuum? Is there such a thing as “great art” and “not great art?”
- What is art for? What purpose/s does it serve? Are there things only art can do?

OTHER QUESTIONS AS THEY COME UP IN CLASS—ADD THEM TO YOUR LIST.