

Lingnan University
Department of Philosophy

Course Title	: Analytic Philosophy of Art
Course Code	: PHI4363
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Programme	: Programme Elective – Aesthetics Profile
Prerequisite(s)	: N/A
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course discusses some of the central issues that have been debated in analytic philosophy of art. The topics covered in the course include: (a) the definition of art, (b) the evaluation of art, and (c) the relationship between art and different values. The course will also explore other philosophical problems arising from specific forms of art—for instance, the ontology of music and the nature of pictorial representation.

Aims

The aim of the course is threefold: to make the students acquainted with the major issues in this area of philosophy; to encourage students to adopt an analytic perspective on problems in the philosophy of art; and, by helping the students to develop an analytic perspective, to contribute to an increased understanding and appreciation of art works themselves.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

(LO1) Describe the main contemporary theories on the nature of art, artistic evaluation, and on the relationship between art and value. The students will also be able to describe some of the major philosophical problems arising from specific forms of art.

(LO2) Specify the main points of disagreement between the various theories discussed in class.

(LO3) Evaluate the theoretical solutions proposed to the problems that an analytic study of art poses.

(LO4) Propose and discuss their personal views on the issues debated.

Indicative Content

1. The definition of art.
Essentialist theories.
The historical definition of art
'Art' as an open concept
The institution theory of art
2. Appreciating a work of art
Art, perception, and interpretation
Understanding, interpretation and appreciation
Correct appreciation
Arguing about a work of art
3. The value of art
The notion of aesthetic value

- Instrumental value and aesthetic value
- Art and morality
- 4. Emotion and art
 - Art and experience
 - Emotions in music
 - Emotions and the narrative arts

Teaching Method

Lectures, presentations, and discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students will take/write:

- Short in-class quizzes, in which they will have to answer short questions on the various concepts and theories discussed in class (to assess LO1, LO2, and LO3);
- A final exam, in which they will have to write long essay questions on the content of the course. Students will have to elaborate their views on the theories discussed in class (to assess LO1, LO2, LO3, and LO4);
- A term paper (1500-2000 words) on a topic of the course (to assess mainly LO4). The students will be provided with a list of readings related to the specific topic they choose to write about.
- Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and demonstrate good preparation—for instance, they will have to demonstrate adequate knowledge of the required weekly readings when called by the lecturer (to assess LO1, LO2, LO3, and LO4).

Assessment

Participation and in-class discussion (10%)

In-class quizzes (20%)

Paper (30%)

Final exam (40%)

Required Readings

A selection of articles from Peter Lamarque & Peter and Stein Haugom Olsen (eds.), *Philosophy of Art: The Analytic Tradition: An Anthology*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2002.

Other material (papers, lecture notes, etc.) will be available on moodle.

Supplementary Readings

Beardsley, Monroe C., *Aesthetics. Problems in the Philosophy of Criticism*, 2nd ed., Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1981.

Budd, Malcolm, *Values of Art. Pictures, Poetry and Music*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1996.

Danto, Arthur C., *The Philosophical Disenfranchisement of Art*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.

Davies, Stephen, *Definitions of Art*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991.

Dickie, George, *Art and the Aesthetic. An Institutional Analysis*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1974.

Kivy, Peter (ed), *The Blackwell Guide to Aesthetics*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2002.

Neill, Alex and Ridley, Aaron (eds.), *Arguing about Art. Contemporary Philosophical Debates*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.

Scruton, Roger, *Art and Imagination. A Study in the Philosophy of Mind*, London: Methuen & Co., 1974.

Wollheim, Richard, *Art and Its Objects*, 2nd ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980.

Yanal Robert J. (ed.), *Institutions of Art. Reconsiderations of George Dickie's Philosophy*.

University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994.

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>