### Philosophy of Art and Beauty

Kent State University Course Syllabus

PHIL 3106/001/16094 Spring 2025

TR: 11:00-12:15 am Location: Bowman Hall 217

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Coate

Office: BOW 320 F

Office hours: TR 1:45- 3:45 pm

W 4:00- 5:00 pm (or by appointment)

Contact: mcoate@kent.edu (330) 672-3965

### **Course Description:**

# **Official Course Description:**

Investigation of concepts such as the artistic object and creative expression, and examination and critique of a range of theories designed to solve various problems in the field of aesthetics, or the study of the nature and principles of artistic beauty. Examples drawn from diverse genres such as the visual arts, drama, music, and dance provide the context for discussion of topics including what makes something beautiful and what is involved in an act of creativity.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students in this course are expected to develop the ability to

- □ Understand art as imitation, emotional engagement, a play of forms, the unification of experience, and existential truth;
- □ Learn to integrate abstract ideas with contemporary issues in art and art theory; and
- $\Box$  Demonstrate exposure to and knowledge of main views and issues addressed by major figures from the history of philosophy.

Because this course satisfies the university Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR), students should also, after successfully completing this course's ELR activities, be able to:

- $\hfill\Box$  Apply knowledge gained in this course in new and different settings outside the classroom;
- □ Demonstrate how the learning experiences connected to this course have broadened your understanding of the discipline of philosophy, the world, and yourself; and
- □ Reflect on the meaning of these experiences, both orally and in writing or other forms of expression.

## **Course requirements:**

#### **Required texts**:

□ Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (Cambridge University Press, ISBN-13: 9780521348928);

# **Grading:**

□ ELR Response Papers	2 @ 15%	30% total
□ Weekly Writing Assignments	7 @ 5%	35% total
□ Final exam	1 @ 35%	35% total

#### Exam:

A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester. This will be worth 35% of your final grade.

## **ELR Response Papers**:

Two papers of around 2000 words (8 double-spaced pages) will be required from each student. These papers will be written about a work you find interesting in each of our two field trips, or at an optional ELR experience that you take on your own. When we get closer to the due date for the first of these two assignments I will describe it more in depth, but each paper will require a discussion of the chosen work in relation to ideas discussed in one (or more) of our reading assignments. Each of these two papers will be worth 15% of the final class grade, for 30% overall between the two.

#### **Weekly Writing Assignments:**

Beginning with week 2, I will be assigning a roughly 250-word (or one-page long) summary on that week's reading due on the Sunday before the week starts. Assuming that there is more than one reading for the week (which there almost always will be) students will choose which of the two readings to summarize. Thoughtful summaries will receive full credit, while less than adequate ones will receive only half credit for that week's work. You will have to turn in *seven* of these, and each one will count for 5% of the final grade, for a total of 35% overall. (Because I will be assigning fourteen assignments over the course of the semester, I will be dropping the lowest seven for each student.)

### University services and policies:

#### **Enrollment and registration statement:**

The official registration deadline for self-adding this course is 1/19/25. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

The course withdrawal deadline is 3/30/25. The last day to drop without a "W" being assigned will be 1/26/25.

#### **University Requirements:**

For undergrads and philosophy majors and minors, this course may be used to satisfy upper division hours for university requirements. As a prerequisite, this class requires one previous course in philosophy, or else express departmental override.

#### **Experiential Learning Requirements:**

All KSU students must fulfill the ELR in order to graduate. This degree requirement provides students with learning experiences that promote academic relevance, meaning and an understanding of real-word issues.

#### **Student Accessibility Services statement:**

Kent State University is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. University Policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to course content. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible to establish accommodations. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic medical conditions, or injuries), please let me know immediately.

SAS can be reached at (330) 672-3391; please visit <a href="www.kent.edu/sas">www.kent.edu/sas</a> for more information.

#### Personal responsibility and academic integrity statement:

University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at <a href="http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/index.cfm">http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/index.cfm</a> and/or ask.

Please note that any instances of plagiarism will be reported and dealt with in accordance with the policies stipulated in section 3-01.8. Sanctions for a "traditionally" plagiarized assignment will, at the very least, include receiving a 0% on the plagiarized assignment, but may also include more severe consequences as the situation warrants. Sanctions for assignments plagiarized using AI text-generating apps will be more severe and will result in an automatic grade of "F" for the semester. Text-generating apps may not be used in any way for written assignments under any circumstances.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory. Any student missing a class will receive an unexcused absence, unless they inform the professor of the absence and provide legitimate reason for it, including any relevant documentation. After 3 unexcused absences, a student will lose a half letter-grade from his or her final grade for each additional absence.

Given H.B. 353, which took effect in the Spring 2023 Semester, students need to be reasonably accommodated in regard to academic requirements, including exams and academic absences, for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices. Under this bill, it is required that students be permitted up to three days of absence per semester, without penalty, for religious holidays or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of any religious or spiritual organization. To ensure compliance with H.B. 353, Kent State University adopted a new administrative policy regarding accommodations for student religious and spiritual beliefs (3-01.14). Under current guidance, students need to submit a request in writing to the instructor within 14 days after the first day of instruction. To review the current policy, see the relevant webpage for the Office for the Provost.

#### **Electronic device policy:**

Cel phones and smart phone devices may not be used in class at any time. Laptops or tablets are also prohibited, except if a student has received prior permission from me for their use in

class (for note-taking or other academic purposes only, of course). If you would like to use an electronic device for such purposes, please let me know so I can give you clearance for this.

## **Grade scale:**

92-100%	4.0 per credit hour
90-92%	3.7 per credit hour
88-90%	3.3 per credit hour
82-88%	3.0 per credit hour
80-82%	2.7 per credit hour
78-80%	2.3 per credit hour
72-78%	2.0 per credit hour
70-72%	1.7 per credit hour
68-70%	1.3 per credit hour
60-68%	1.0 per credit hour
0 - 60%	0.0 per credit hour
	90-92% 88-90% 82-88% 80-82% 78-80% 70-72% 68-70% 60-68%

# **Course schedule:**

Schedule is subject to change!!! Readings are due on the day listed!

□ week 1:			
Tuesday 1/14	Class Introduction		
Thursday 1/16	Plato The Republic	read: 1-22 Canvas	
□ week 2:			
Tuesday 1/21		read: 23-38 Canvas	Writing Assignment #1 Due: Sunday, 1/19
Thursday 1/23	The Phaedrus	read: p. 1-17 Canvas	
□ week 3:		1	
Tuesday 1/28	Wölfflin; Yang Principles; Three Thousand Years	read: p. 1-12; 1-5 Canvas	Writing Assignment #2 Due: Sunday, 1/26
Thursday 1/30	Okakura The Book of Tea	read: p. 1-19 Canvas	
□ week 4:			
Tuesday 2/4	Kant Critique of the Power of Judgment	read: p. 89-104	Writing Assignment #3 Due: Sunday, 2/2
Thursday 2/6		read: p. 105-116	
□ week 5:			
Tuesday 2/11		read: p. 121-127; 160- 170	Writing Assignment #4 Due: Sunday, 2/9
Thursday 2/13		read: p. 178-191	
□ week 6:		•	1
Tuesday 2/18		read: 191-207	Writing Assignment #5 Due: Sunday, 2/16
Thursday 2/20		read: p. 213-219; 221- 228	Writing Assignment #6 Due: Sunday, 2/2

□ week 7:			
Tuesday		read: p. 128-140	
2/25			
Thursday		read: p. 140-149	
2/27		1000. p. 110 115	
□ week 8:			
Tuesday	de Almeida Rodrigues	read: p. 1-17	Writing Assignment #7
3/4	"The Offences of the Imagination"	Canvas	Due: Sunday, 3/2
Thursday	Field Trip:		
3/6	TBA!		
□ week 9:	IBA:		
	No Class:	7	
Tuesday 3/11			
	Spring Break! No Class:		
Thursday 3/13			
□ week 10:	Spring Break!	_	
	C -1 1	mondum 1 22	Writing Assignment #8
Tuesday	Schopenhauer World as Will and Representation	read: p. 1-22 Canvas	Due: Sunday, 3/16
3/18	World as Will and Representation		·
Thursday		read: p. 23-28 Canvas	ELR Paper #1 Due!
3/20		Curvus	Due: Friday 3/21
□ week 11:		T	
Tuesday	Fry	read: p. 1-18 Canvas	Writing Assignment #9
3/25	Vision and Design		Due: Sunday, 3/23
Thursday	Kandinsky	read: p. 1-19	
3/27	"On the Problem of Form"	Canvas	
□ week 12:			
Tuesday	Greenberg	read: p. 1-5	Writing Assignment #10
4/1	"Abstract Art"	Canvas	Due: Sunday, 3/30
Thursday	No Class:		
4/3	Study Day!		
□ week 13:			
Tuesday	Heidegger	read: p. 1-13	Writing Assignment #11
4/8	"The Origin of the Work of Art"	Canvas	Due: Sunday, 4/6
Thursday		read: p. 14-22	
4/10		Canvas	
□ week 14:			
Tuesday		read: p. 22-39	Writing Assignment #12
4/15		Canvas	Due: Sunday, 4/13
Thursday	Smithson	read: p. 1-17	
4/17	"Entropy and the New Monuments"	Canvas	
□ week 15:			
Tuesday	Danto	read: p. 1-18	Writing Assignment #13
4/22	"The End of Art"	Canvas	Due: Sunday, 4/20
Thursday	Levinas	read: p. 9-29	
4/24	"Signification and Sense"	Canvas	
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□ week 16:			
Tuesday		read: p. 29-44	Writing Assignment #14
4/29		Canvas	Due: Sunday, 4/27
Thursday	Field Trip:		
5/1	TBA!		
□ Finals week:			
Friday	Final Exam		ELR Paper #2 Due!
5/9	12:45-3:00 pm		Due: Friday 5/9