

PHILOSOPHY 440/541 A01
Topics in contemporary philosophy of art
2017

Instructor: Dr. James Young

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Texts: This course has no required text other than the pdf of *Critique of Pure Music* (see below).

Course outline:

This course is a research seminar. Students are expected to spend the entire term researching and writing a paper on a topic of their own choice. This paper may be on any topic so long as it is related in some way to contemporary issues in philosophy of art.

We will begin the course by devoting the first two weeks of the course to reading the instructor's book, *Critique of Pure Music*. (A pdf copy of the book will be distributed to students.)

By the third week of classes, students must have met with the instructor to discuss a general area of research in which they wish to work. A research topic may evolve over the course of the term, but it should be pretty firm by the mid-way point of the term. From week three on, each student will be responsible for talking to the seminar every week about a paper that they have read in the course of the week and explaining how this paper is related to the research project that they are pursuing. The final two or three weeks of the term (depending on the final enrolment in the class) will be given over to presentations of draft essays. The instructor will participate in the seminar in exactly the same way that the students will. Each class he will discuss a paper that he has read in the course of the week, write an essay over the course of the term, and present it to the seminar. The instructor will give the first presentation so as to give students an idea of how these presentations may be conducted.

On the basis of the feedback that students receive from the members the seminar (including the instructor), they will revise their papers for final submission to the instructor, no later than 4:00 p.m., December 15th, 2018. Late papers will be accepted only in the case of documented medical difficulty or personal crisis.

Grading:

Students will write a 6000-word essay on topics of their own choosing. Students must consult with the instructor about the topic of their paper. They will present a draft of the essay in class. Students will then revise their paper on the basis of the feedback they receive from the instructor and their fellow students. The final version of the essay is due on Friday, April 15th at 4 p.m. Students are expected to participate actively in the seminar.

Weighting of assignments:

Essay: 60%

Essay presentation: 20%

General participation: 20%

Students will receive a final grade out of 100 points. Numbers will be converted to a letter grade in accordance with the following scale: 90-100=A+; 85-89=A; 80-84=A-; 77-79=B+; 73-76=B; 70-72=B-; 65-69=C+; 60-64=C; 50-59= D; 0-49=F. Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Plagiarism is not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>.