

PHILOSOPHY 440/541 A01
Advanced Aesthetics/Seminar in Aesthetics

2023

Instructor: Dr. James Young

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 2:30-4:00 and by appointment

Texts: Assigned readings are indicated 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 issues in philosophy of art.

We will begin the course by devoting the first two weeks of the course to reading some classic papers in philosophy of art.

By the end of 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 students must have submitted an outline of their project by 20 February. From week three on, each student will be responsible for talking to the seminar at least once a 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.

I will participate in the seminar in exactly the same way that the students will. Each class I will discuss a paper that I have read in the course of the week. I will write an essay over the course of the term, and present it to the seminar. I 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.

Grading:

Students will write a 5000 to 6000-word essay on topics of their own choosing. Students must consult with the instructor about the topic of their paper. An essay proposal is due on February 20th. This proposal should include a thesis statement, a sketch of your argument and a bibliography of at least eight papers relevant to your topic. The final version of the essay is due on April 14th at 4 p.m. Late papers will be accepted only in the case of documented medical difficulty or personal crisis. If you are unwell on the date of your scheduled presentation, please make arrangements to present your paper via Zoom.

Weighting of assignments:

Essay: 50%

Essay proposal 10%

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. You will find information on the University's academic integrity policy here: <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/>

N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and will be assigned a final grade:

- *Essay*
- *Essay proposal*
- *Essay presentation*
- *General participation*

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. In order to receive credit for the general participation portion of the course, students must

attend at least 80% of the meetings of the seminar. An N is a failing grade, and it factors into a student's GPA as O. The maximum percentage that can accompany an N on a student's transcript is 49

Readings

9 January

Stephen Davies, 'Functional and Procedural Definitions of Art,' *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 24 (1990), 99-106.

12 January

Jerrold Levinson, 'What a Musical Work Is,' *Journal of Philosophy*, 77 (1980), 5-28.

16 January

A.W. Eaton, 'Feminist Philosophy of Art,' *Philosophy Compass*, 3 (2008), 873-93.

19 January

Jenefer Robinson, 'Music and Emotions,' *Journal of Literary Theory*, 1/2 (2007), 395-419.

23 January

Noël Carroll, 'Art and the Domain of the Aesthetic,' *British Journal of Aesthetics*, 40 (2000), 191-208.