

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2021

PHL 327L.80: Aesthetics and the Arts

Matthew S. Strohl

University of Montana, Missoula, matthew.strohl@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Strohl, Matthew S., "PHL 327L.80: Aesthetics and the Arts" (2021). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 12427.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/12427>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Philosophy 327: Aesthetics and the Arts

Instructor Information

Professor Matthew Strohl

Office: LA 147

Office hours: TR 9:00-9:30, 12:30-1:00 (These times are flexible and I am also potentially available at other times over zoom. Let me know if you want to talk with me and we'll make it happen.)

Email: matthew.strohl@mso.umt.edu

Course Description

This course is an eclectic introduction to aesthetics appropriate for students with no background in philosophy.

Grading and assignments:

Every week there will be an assignment on Moodle where you can upload a reading response piece or other written work (check with me if you're thinking of trying something outside the box). I'll talk some more in class about how to approach this. All assignments are optional and will be graded on a scale of 0-3. The only condition is that because this course satisfies the L gen ed, at least ONE of your assignments (or your final project) must involve the direct analysis of a work of art. This might mean that you focus on a relevant artwork in one of your reading response pieces. I'll talk about this more in class.

Grading Scale:

0: What you turned in does not reveal adequate engagement with the course material

1: You turned something in that reflects some engagement with the course material, but below the level I'm looking for in terms of the level of effort shown and/or the quality of your engagement.

2: You turned something in that shows solid effort, engagement, and understanding

3: You turned something that surpasses my expectations for effort and/or quality. This might be something longer or more expansive in scope (though longer pieces of writing do not automatically get a 3), or it might mean you turned something in that's short but very insightful.

Your assignment grade will be figured by adding together the scores for all the assignments you turned in.

15=A

14=A-

13=B+

12=B

11=B-

10=C+

9=C

8=C-

7=D

6 or less=F

This grade, along with any other relevant indicators of your level of effort and engagement, will count for about 60% of your final grade. The other 40% will be based on an independent project. This project can be on the topic of your choice, but you must get my approval. The baseline is a 5-6 page essay. I am open to just about anything that would be a way of demonstrating your engagement with the course and would be commensurate with a 5-6 page essay in terms of how much work is involved.

Touch base with me about ideas for your final project as soon as possible! The earlier you get started, the better.

Honors students and philosophy majors seeking upper division credit:

Same deal, but you should write a ~9-10 page paper. If you are a philosophy major seeking upper division credit, you must write a paper. If you are not a philosophy major, I'm open to other possibilities commensurate with a 9-10 page paper. If you're looking for both Honors AND upper division philosophy credit, it should be more like 12 pages.

If you are far past 15 on your assignment grade, that can compensate for a weaker final project. Similarly, a strong final project can compensate for a weaker assignment grade. My goal here is to give you as many ways as possible to succeed in this course.

Academic misconduct:

You are strictly held to the [University of Montana Student Conduct Code](#) Don't plagiarize!

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice, and to be prepared to provide verification of disability and its impact from Disability Services. Please speak with me after class or during my office hours to discuss the details. For more information, visit the [Office for Disability Equality \(ODE\)](#) .

If you're not registered with ODE but feel you could benefit from an accommodation, I'm open to that as well, within reason. Just ask.

Readings

Note: this schedule is subject to change! Readings will be made available on moodle along with a clear indication of what is optional and what is required.

Week 1: Required: "Rocks & Sunsets." Optional: "Categories of Art."

Week 2 (9/7-9/9): What is Art?

Week 3 (9/14-9/16): Street Art

Week 4 (9/21-9/23): Taste

Week 5 (9/28-9/30): Diversity and disagreement

Week 6 (10/5-10/7): Aesthetic value

Week 7 (10/12-10/14): Feminist aesthetics

Week 8 (10/19-10/21): Authenticity and Forgery

Week 9: (10/26 10/28): The Paradox of Horror

Week 10: (11/2-11/4) Moralism

Week 11: (11/9 only. 11/11 no class for Veteran's Day): Morally troubling artists

Week 12: (11/16-11/18): NO CLASS UNLESS MY CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED (any updates will be posted on moodle).

Optional assignments for week 12:

Read the entirety of Mary-Beth Willard's Book *Why it's OK to Enjoy the Work of Immoral Artists* (available on moodle—it's short, you can read it in a couple hours). Write a response.

Write a short piece analyzing or discussing an artwork of your choice in connection with any of the readings from the course so far.

Week 13: (11/23 only. 11/25 no class for Thanksgiving): Plato and Mass Media

Week 14: (11/30-12/2): Artistic intention

Week: 15: 12/7-12/9: Games