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PHL 499.01:Senior Seminar

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Philosophy 499: Problems in Aesthetics

Professor Matthew Strohl

Office: LA 147. I will be available to talk immediately after class or in the morning between 9 and 9:30

Email: matthew.strohl@mso.umt.edu

Course description:

This course will explore central problems in aesthetics through engagement with Anglophone literature from the last 50 years or so.

Required textbook:

Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: The Analytic Tradition. Edited by Lamarque and Olsen. Blackwell Philosophical Anthologies.

Work and grading:

One in-depth presentation on a chosen reading. 25% of your grade.

One 12 page term paper in two drafts. 50% of your grade.

Two short exams, to keep you honest on the readings. 25% of your grade

Academic misconduct:

You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<http://www.umt.edu.SA>). The min-class exams are closed-note: you may not consult anything but your own mind in order to answer questions on the exam. You may not use cell-phones, or any electronic devices to aid you, nor fellow students, nor fellow students' answers on exams, etc. You will receive no credit for any exam that you cheat on. Your conduct will also be reported to the Dean.

Special needs:

Students with registered disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Please speak with me before or after class if you need to make special arrangements. 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. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at www.umt.edu/dss/

Schedule:

1/25 "Defining Art Historically"

1/30 "The New Institutional Theory of Art"

2/1 "An Aesthetic Definition of Art"

2/6 "The Artworld" (Gentry)

2/8 "What a Musical Work Is," "Platonism in Music: A Kind of Defense"

2/13 "Aesthetic Concepts"

2/15 "Categories of Art"

2/20 "The Test of Time" (Mike)

2/22 "Street Art: The Transfiguration of the Commonplaces" (by Nick Riggle. Not in the book)

2/27 "Artistic Value"

3/1 I will be away, but I want you to meet without me and take the midterm. I'll give them to someone in a sealed envelope on the 27th. START THINKING ABOUT YOUR PAPER TOPIC IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY

3/6 "How can we be moved by the fate of Anna Karenina" (Riley)

3/8 "Fearing Fictions"

3/13 "How Can We Fear and Pity Fictions?" (Claire)

3/15 "Intentions and Interpretations: A Fallacy Revived"

3/20 "Intention and interpretation in Literature" (Chase)

3/22 "The Constructivist's Dilemma" (Joseph)PAPERS SHOULD BE UNDERWAY BY THIS POINT

3/26-30 spring break no class

4/3 "Tragedy and Moral Value" (Alex)

4/5 Ethical Criticism of Art, (Aaron)

4/10 "The Profundity of Music " (Annie)

4/12 "Expression and Arousal of Emotion in Music"

4/17 "Style and Personality in the Literary Work" (Rena)

4/19 "Rock versus Classical Music" (Brandon)

4/24 "The Power of Movies" (MJ) PAPER DRAFTS DUE

4/26 Final exam

5/1-3 Movie! (to be determined later)