

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 6475 *Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
None
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers philosophical and critical inquiry focusing on aesthetic value theories as they apply to historical and contemporary settings.
- V. RATIONALE
This course addresses the need for graduate students to articulate views about art within a cognitive framework that reflects contemplation and scholarly discourse. Since art is a form of communication that reflects values and belief systems of individuals and cultures, it is important to examine assumptions and presumptions about art in general. An understanding of basic philosophical assumptions as they relate to the humanist and Christian worldviews is foundational to an understanding of the relationship between art and society and the role of the artist in society. A study of aesthetic theories, which provides basic assumptions from which criteria for judgment of a work of art originate, and art criticism, which provides a structure for analysis and interpretation of the visual environment, is needed to equip students to articulate aesthetic positions about their own work and the work of others.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, the student will:
 - A. Identify criteria and a philosophical basis used with aesthetic theories.
 - B. Discuss the relationship between a variety of value theories.
 - C. Explore historical and contemporary relationships between art and other topics including politics, culture, and religion.
 - D. Apply a variety of approaches to art criticism in critiquing selected works of art.
 - E. Identify issues related to censorship and freedom of speech as they relate to artistic freedoms and responsibilities.
 - F. Create a work of art that explores an aesthetic issue.
 - G. Research, write, and present a paper that focuses on an aesthetic issue.

- VII. COURSE TOPICS
 - A. Mimetic theory
 - B. Expressionistic theory
 - C. Formalistic theory
 - D. Pragmatic theory
 - E. Contextualist vs. Essentialist
 - F. Objectivist vs. Relativist
 - G. Philosophical foundations
 - H. Art and politics
 - I. Art and culture
 - J. Art and religion
 - K. Art and Christianity
 - L. Art criticism
 - M. Art and censorship
 - N. Art and Constitutional freedoms

- VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
 - A. Lecture/discussion
 - B. Group discussion
 - C. Studio activities
 - D. Case studies
 - E. Research
 - F. Written analysis and critiques
 - G. Term paper
 - H. Student presentations

- IX. ASSIGNMENTS
 - A. Participation in discussion
 - B. Reading assignments
 - C. Written analysis
 - D. Studio art project
 - E. Research paper
 - F. Research on aesthetic topics
 - G. Presentations

- X. GRADING SCALE

See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation.

- XI. REFERENCES

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