

## SYLLABUS

---

### **I. COURSE TITLE**

**ART 6475                      Aesthetics and Art Criticism                      3 Semester Hours**

### **II. PREREQUISITES**

None

### **III. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course offers philosophical and critical inquiry focusing on aesthetic value theories as they apply to historical and contemporary settings.

### **IV. 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 world views 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.

### **V. 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.

### **VI. COURSE TOPICS**

The major topics to be considered are:

- A. Mimetic Theory
- B. Expressionistic Theory
- C. Formalistic Theory
- D. Pragmatic Theory
- E. Essentialist vs. Contextualist

- F. Relativist vs. Objectivist
- 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

## **VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Methods and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussion
- C. Studio Activities
- D. Case Studies
- E. Research
- F. Written Analysis
- G. Written Critiques
- H. Term Paper
- I. Student Presentations

## **VIII. ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Participation in Discussions
- B. Reading Assignments
- C. Written Analysis
- D. Studio Art Project
- E. Research Paper
- F. Research on Aesthetic Topics
- G. Presentations

## **IX. EVALUATION**

The student will be responsible for the following:

- A. Class Participation 20%  
*Method of Evaluation:* students should be able to respond to question from reading assignments, discuss works of art using a variety of criticism methods, and defend aesthetic views in class.
- B. Outside Reading Assignments 20%  
*Method of Evaluation:* Students will write a response to the assigned reading material and be able to discuss these in class.
- C. Studio Art Project 20%  
*Method of Evaluation:* The students will create a work of art that explores an aesthetic issue. The grade for the work will be based on the clear and professional presentation of the idea along with skill and technique.
- D. Research Paper 20%

*Method of Evaluation:* The paper should be 10 to 15 pages long using APA format. Evaluation will be based upon: (a) content, (b) historical background information, (c) philosophical foundation, (d) grammar and (e) structure.

E. Presentation 20%

*Method of Evaluation:* Students will present their research papers, art projects, and other research findings on aesthetic and/or critical issues in class.

Points will be deducted for assignments turned in late.

## **X. GRADING SCALE**

A. = 93-100

B. = 85-92

C. = 76-84

D. = 65-75

F. = 0-64

I. = A incomplete may be given to a student who has been providentially hindered from completing work required in a course, provided that:

1. Semester attendance requirements have been met;
2. Most of the required work has been done;
3. The student is doing passing work and the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty member to complete the remaining work at a later date.

The grade of I must be removed promptly or it becomes an F; it cannot be removed by repeating the course.”

## **XI. REFERENCES**

Available by request from the professor.