

AESTHETICS

DR. CHRISTOPHER BARTEL

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
PHL 3013 — SPRING 2010
T.TH. 12:30 – 1:45
GREER HALL 222

bartelcj@appstate.edu
GREER HALL 115B
828.262.7193

OFFICE HOURS: M.W.F. 10:30AM – 1PM

A. Course Description: *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.* Or is it? What is beauty, and why do we experience the world in this way? This course will take an abstract and theoretical look at the nature of aesthetic experience. Our concern will be to understand what makes aesthetic experience unique, what are the causes of aesthetic experience, how aesthetic experience might be related to our appreciation of art and nature, and to examine what role knowledge and belief may play in aesthetic experience.

B. Core Texts

1. Alex Neill and Aaron Ridley (1995). *The Philosophy of Art: Readings Ancient and Modern*. New York: McGraw-Hill. **Rental.**
2. Matthew Kieran (2006). *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing. **Purchase.**

Suggested Further Reading

1. Arthur Danto (1981). *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
2. E. H. Gombrich (1960). *Art and Illusion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
3. Jerrold Levinson (1990). *Music, Art and Metaphysics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
4. Richard Wollheim (1980). *Art and Its Objects*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
5. *The British Journal of Aesthetics*, published on behalf of the British Society of Aesthetics by Oxford University Press.
6. *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, published on behalf of the American Society of Aesthetics by Blackwell's Publishers.

C. Assessment: There are four components that you will be graded on: fortnightly short essay quizzes, two class presentations and one final writing assignment. The calculation of your grade will be made as follows:

Short Essay Quizzes:	30%
Mid-Term Presentation:	10%
Final Presentation:	20%
Final Writing Assignment:	40%

Quizzes: There will be five quizzes held each fortnight. Each quiz will consist of three to five short essay questions. Of the five quizzes, I will only count the top four. The quizzes will be available online through the AsU Learn website. Quizzes will be available online immediately after class finishes on Thursdays and must be completed before 12:30PM on the following Tuesday.

Mid-Term Presentation: The first class presentation will be scheduled during mid-terms week. Each speaker will be required to speak for 10 minutes from an essay written in advance of the presentation. (A ten minute paper is roughly 1,000 words.) Either the student may choose to write an essay on their own topic **with the approval of the instructor** or a question will be assigned by the course instructor to the student in advance of each presentation. A copy of the essay **must** be provided to the instructor. You will be graded on both content and effectiveness.

Final Presentation: The second class presentation will be scheduled during the final weeks of class. Each speaker will be required to speak for 10 minutes from an essay written in advance of the presentation. The topic of this paper would typically be a rough draft of the student's final writing assignment. A copy of the essay **must** be provided to the instructor. You will be graded on both content and effectiveness.

Final Writing Assignment: The final writing assignment consists of a minimum 4,000 word paper (+/- 10%) in which the student develops his or her own ideas on one of the topics that we have discussed in class. The course instructor will be available to meet out of class if any student needs help or advice on: finding a topic for their paper, finding essays that might be useful for their research, the progress of the student's research, the organization of the student's essay, or to discuss a rough draft of your essay. These meetings are optional and will be offered at the request of the student. The final writing assignment is due Monday, May 4 at 2:30. These must be submitted to the instructor either via email (bartelcj@appstate.edu) or they may be submitted via the appropriate link on AsU Learn.

D. Lecture Schedule

	Tuesday	Thursday
Jan. 13-15	Introduction: Truth, Judgment and the Convergence of Experience	Relativism, Subjectivism and Models of Aesthetics
Jan. 20-22	What Distinguishes the Aesthetic?: The Aesthetic Attitude	Realism and Anti-Realism in Aesthetics
Jan. 27-29	Supervenience and Aesthetic Concepts	The Acquaintance Principle and the Case of Literature
Feb. 3-5	Humean Subjectivism and Response-Dependence	Kantian Formalism
Feb. 10-12	Aesthetic Empiricism	Evolutionary Aesthetics
Feb. 17-19	Conceptual Anti-Realism	Conceptual Anti-Realism and Distinguishing Aesthetic Experience
Feb. 24-26	<i>Mid-Term Presentations I</i>	<i>Mid-Term Presentations II</i>
Mar. 3-5	<i>Mid-Term Presentations III</i>	<i>Mid-Term Presentations IV</i>
Mar. 10-12	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Mar. 17-19	Knowledge, Aesthetic Experience and Historical Inaccuracy	Are Emotional Responses to Fiction Authentic and Rational?
Mar. 24-26	Negative Aesthetic Judgments: Ugliness and Disgust	Negative Aesthetic Judgments: Sublime Sadness?
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Are Morally Flawed Works of Art Necessarily Aesthetically Flawed?	NO CLASS
Apr. 7-9	Naturalism, Cognitive Science and Aesthetics	Psychoacoustics: Cognitive Science on the Experience of Music
Apr. 14-16	NO CLASS	Cognitive Science on the Origins of the Aesthetic
Apr. 21-23	<i>Final Presentations I</i>	<i>Final Presentations II</i>
Apr. 28-30	<i>Final Presentations III</i>	<i>Final Presentations IV</i>

E. Policies: Attendance and Class Participation. Neither class participation nor the attendance of the *instructor's lectures* will affect the determination of your grade. The only class periods where I will count attendance will be during the student presentations. For each day of student presentations that a student fails to attend, that student will have a third of their grade deducted from the grade of their own presentation. In other words, miss one day of presentations and you will have 33% of your own presentation's grade deducted; miss two days, 66% will be deducted; miss three days, 100% will be deducted.

Late Quizzes, Presentations and the Final Assignment.

The schedule of **quizzes** is set in advance, which students can review on the AsULearn website. I will not accept late quizzes—**no exceptions**.

The schedule of **presentations** will be set during class time one week before the first presentation will be given. Once the schedule is set, any further changes must be negotiated between the students in consultation with the instructor (e.g. students may elect to swap their scheduled times, but must inform the instructor when doing so). Any student who fails to give a presentation during their scheduled time will receive a failing grade for that assignment, and presentations will not be rescheduled—**no exceptions**. Finally, class attendance is mandatory for all presentations—see the attendance policy above.

The **final writing assignment** is due Monday, May 4 at 2:30. Any assignment received after this time will be considered late. Late assignments will lose 25% of their value for each 24 hour period that they are late—**no exceptions**. For example, if you hand your assignment in before Tuesday, May 5 at 2:30pm, your grade will be reduced by 25%; before Wednesday, May 6 at 2:30pm, your grade will be reduced by 50%, and so on.

Cheating, Collusion and Plagiarism. Do not cheat, collude or plagiarize. The University does not tolerate this and I find it personally insulting. If I *suspect* you of cheating, collusion or plagiarism, I will request that you complete a new assignment. If I *discover* that you have been cheating, colluding or plagiarizing, you will automatically earn an *F* for the course, *and* you will be reported to the University for disciplinary action. **You are advised to avoid the mere suspicion of violating academic integrity.** All students are advised to familiarize themselves with the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found at the Office of Student Conduct's website (<http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/>).

Special Needs. Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at www.ods.appstate.edu or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Syllabus and Course Content. I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus (including course content and policies) for any reason without advance notice. You will be notified of any changes to the policies of this course via email. Any changes in course content will be listed on the AsULearn website.