



OGLETHORPE
UNIVERSITY

GO London
PHI-212: Experiencing the Depth of Art
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Printz Whooley

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Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental philosophical ideas and questions within the most pivotal movements in the history of Philosophy and to illuminate the connection between the fundamental philosophical claims of these movements and pivotal revolutions in art. So, in addition to introducing students to key ideas in Philosophy, this course aims to show the way in which artistic movements express and embody the intellectual and philosophical milieu of the time in which they emerged.

Students will be introduced to the fundamental philosophical claims of three large movements in the History of Philosophy: Classical-Socratic Philosophy, Age of Reason-Age of Enlightenment Philosophy, and Modern Philosophy via an examination of primary texts by philosophers who are thought to express the central concerns, ideas, and questions with which philosophy was occupied within the time periods in which these philosophical movements occurred. These texts include works by Plato, Bacon, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Freud.

The course is divided into roughly three units. In each unit, we will examine the philosophical ideas within these major philosophical movements and examine their relation to three corresponding artistic movements: Renaissance Art, Impressionism, and Surrealism respectively. We will take four trips to two museums in London: The National Gallery of London and the Tate Museum of Modern Art and we will examine the way in which various pieces of art from these movements express and embody the philosophical ideas from the time period within which they emerged. These trips are intended to help us continue to reflect on the philosophical questions and ideas we read, analyze, and discuss in class. Ideally, the texts will illuminate the art **and** the art will further illuminate and nuance our understanding of the ideas and questions that have occupied philosophers throughout history.

Learning Outcomes

From our studies you will become acquainted with key philosophical ideas about the world, the self, meaning, and **value** that correspond with and are embodied within certain artistic movements, particularly Renaissance Art, Impressionism, and Surrealism. By the end of the semester each of you will be able to

- ✓ Provide an account of the key philosophical ideas from Socratic-Classical Philosophy, Philosophy in the Age of Reason and the Enlightenment, and Modern Philosophy and the way in which these ideas evolved from one another.

- ✓ Articulate the connection between the fundamental philosophical claims of the movements in the History of Philosophy and Renaissance Art, Impressionism, and Surrealism, respectively.
- ✓ Demonstrate in written and oral communication the way in which artistic movements express and embody the intellectual and philosophical milieu of the time in which they emerged.

Methods of Instruction

Our classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion with the majority of each class devoted to the latter. There will be regular reading and writing assignments. What you get from this course and how well you do in it depends on the time you devote to preparing for class and the thoughtfulness with which you approach the material. To succeed in this course, you not only need to read the assigned reading and do the assigned written work, you must also actively engage yourself with the material and come to class prepared to participate fully in class discussions.

Required Texts

Course Manual

Methods of Assessment

- A) Four Reading Analyses: 10% each=40%
- B) Four Post Museum Reflections: 10%each=40%
- C) Final Paper: 15%
- D) Participation and Attendance: 5%

A) Four Reading Analyses

You will turn in weekly reading analyses and reflections for this class. Every Thursday you will turn in a 2- page typed reading analysis/reflection. Your analysis/reflection each week should include the following two things (but your entries are not limited to these two things): (1) reflection on the readings and the key philosophical ideas we have discussed in class that week and (2) an account of the way in which a philosophical idea that was raised in one of our readings/discussions that week persists in contemporary society. The aim of these analyses/reflections is to give you the opportunity to not only further engage in the readings, further reflect on the issues in the readings that we explore in class, but also to see that these issues are living issues and not relegated to intellectual arm-chair discussions.

--All papers are to be typed, double-spaced.

--All papers are due in my Oglethorpe email inbox – aprintz@oglethorpe.edu-- by 1pm on Thursday.

--Your paper must include the OU honor code pledge: "I pledge that I have acted honorably."

Signed _____

--If you need an extension on a paper you must ask me no less than three days prior to the due date. Papers handed in late (without my permission) will have 5 points deducted from the grade for each day that it is late. Papers that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted.

B) Four Post-Museum Reflections

As was stated in the course description and overview, we will extend our examination of Philosophical thought beyond the texts and the classroom and we will look the way in which philosophical ideas are expressed in and embodied by pieces of art from pivotal artistic

movements. We will be making a total of four trips to examine art. After each trip, you will be required to write up a 2-page reflection in which you articulate and demonstrate the connection between the philosophical ideas we discuss in class and one-two of the artworks we examine in the museum. Each reflection must be turned into my Oglethorpe email address:

aprintz@oglethorpe.edu by 1pm every Friday afternoon.

--All papers are to be typed, double-spaced.

--Your paper must include the OU honor code pledge: "I pledge that I have acted honorably."

Signed _____

--If you need an extension on a paper you must ask me no less than three days prior to the due date. Papers handed in late (without my permission) will have 5 points deducted from the grade for each day that it is late. Papers that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted.

C) Final Paper

You will write one final paper for this course in which you will choose one of the major philosophical movements and one of the major artistic movements and demonstrate their connection, utilizing the texts we have read and discussed and the artwork we have examined. expand and refine one of your post museum reflections. You should consider this paper as a further learning opportunity in which you will not only deepen your thinking on a particular philosophical idea and the relationship between philosophy and art but also continue to sharpen your abilities to read critically, explicate a text and a piece of art, and communicate your thoughts in a clear, well-reasoned manner. Your grade for the papers will be based on the quality of your insights about the text, your use of the text in supporting these insights, and the coherence of your argument and presentation. Please note: these papers are NOT book reports and neither are they regurgitations of the discussions we have in class.

D) Participation/Attendance

A portion of your final grade depends on your attendance and participation in this course. In short, to succeed and get the most from this class, you must come to class and you must come prepared, ready to participate in discussions, and ready to engage with the text in a serious and meaningful way.

Participation: You are expected to be a regular and active participant in discussions and you are expected to contribute to those discussions in meaningful and positive ways. Not all participation is equal: to say something just to say something is not a meaningful contribution to the discussion. Participation in discussion is the best way for you to dig into the text and to decipher your own questions and thoughts concerning it.

Attendance: You are expected to come on time to every class and there is a ZERO absence policy for this class. This means that you are not allowed to miss a class and for every class you do miss, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade.

The following is meant only as a rough guide as to how your participation grade will be determined:

A: Participates voluntarily and frequently. Shows a good grasp of the material and good preparation.

B: Participates voluntarily with less frequency but still makes an important contribution to the class discussion.

C: Participates voluntarily but shows a lesser grasp of the material or little preparation.

D: Participates only when asked to do so.

F: Does not participate or is frequently absent.

Please see the university's policy with regard to INCOMPLETE grades in OU's Bulletin.

Course Policies and Classroom Ethics

Classroom Ethics:

- Respect yourself and one another in the classroom. The obvious aim of this course is to provide an opportunity for you to engage in some of the most stimulating and controversial revolutions in philosophy and art. A classroom environment that is conducive to such learning must be one in which each person is able to freely express his/her thoughts, to ask questions, to make mistakes, to disagree in a non-combative way, and to learn from and with one another. In short, use neither disrespectful speech nor any other form of disrespectful behavior towards one another.
- Cell phones and all other electronic devices (laptops, tablets, music devices, etc.) may NOT be used in the classroom. They are unnecessary and distracting.
- Do not leave the room during class unless it is absolutely necessary. Leaving the room while class is in session is disruptive to your learning and to the learning of others.
- Enjoy yourself!

Course Policies:

- **Honor Code**

Persons who come to Oglethorpe University for work and study join a community that is committed to high standards of academic honesty. The honor code contains the responsibilities we accept by becoming members of the community and the procedures we will follow should our commitment to honesty be questioned. All work produced for this class will be governed by the honor code.

The Code defines cheating as "the umbrella under which all academic malfeasance falls. Cheating is any willful activity involving the use of deceit or fraud in order to attempt to secure an unfair academic advantage for oneself or others or to attempt to cause an unfair academic disadvantage to others. Cheating deprives persons of the opportunity for a fair and reasonable assessment of their own work and/or a fair comparative assessment between and among the work produced by members of a group. More broadly, cheating undermines our community's confidence in the honorable state to which we aspire."

Students pledge that they have completed assignments honestly by attaching the following statement to each piece of work submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a course:

"I pledge I have acted honorably," followed by their signature.

- **Students with Disabilities.** I will work with Oglethorpe University to provide reasonable accommodations for every student special learning needs. If you need special accommodations, please give the relevant documentation to the Learning Disabilities Coordinator or me. It is the student's responsibility to register for services with the Learning Disabilities Coordinator and to discuss his/her needs with his/her professor.

Class Schedule

Note: This class schedule is tentative and subject to change

WEEK ONE:

Monday—In Class

An Introduction to Course and the History of Philosophy

Introduction to Greek Mythology

Tuesday—In Class

Examination of the following Greek Myths

Theseus and Ariadne

Dionysus/Bacchus and the nature of Dionysian Religious Cults

Venus and Mars; Venus and Adonis

Diana and Actaeon; Diana and Callisto

Wednesday—In Class

Introduction to Pre-Socratic to Socratic and Platonic Philosophy

Discussion and Examination of Selections from the following Platonic Works

--*Apology*, *Symposium* and *The Republic*

Discussion of Neo-Platonism

Thursday—Museum Trip

We will begin the trip discussing the relationship between Neo-Platonic thought and Renaissance Art

Trip Visit: The National Gallery of London

We will be examining paintings by the following artists that are housed within the National Gallery:

Boticelli, Titian, Michelangelo, and Raphael

Two-page Reading Analysis due Thursday by 1pm

Two-page Post-Museum Reflections due Friday by 1pm.

WEEK TWO:

Monday—In Class

The Move from the Ancients to the Moderns

Overview of the the History of Philosophy: Rationalism→Empiricism→ Kantian Revolution

Overview of Impressionism

Relationship between the development of Philosophy and Impressionism

Tuesday—In Class

Discussion of the Following Texts

Descartes, *Meditations of First Philosophy*—Meditations One and Two

John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*—*Introduction*

Wednesday—In Class

Discussion of the following text:

George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*—Introduction and Sections 1-5

Thursday—Museum Trip

Trip Visit: Tate Museum of Modern Art

We will be examining paintings by the following artists that are housed within the Tate Museum of Modern Art:

Monet, Degas, Cezanne,, Pissarro, Renois, Degas, Manet. Whistler and Van Gogh

Two-page Reading Analysis due Thursday by 1pm

Two-page Post-Museum Reflections due Friday by 1pm.

WEEK THREE:

During Week Three we will continue our discussion of the Early Modern Philosophic Movement and its Relation to Impressionism

Monday—Wednesday In Class

The Age of Reason to the Age of Enlightenment to Modernity

Examination of Selections from:

David Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena*

Thursday—Museum Trip

Trip Visit: National Gallery of London

We will be examining paintings by the following artists that are housed within the National Gallery:

Monet, Cezanne, Pissarro, Klimt, Matisse, Courbet

Two-page Reading Analysis due Thursday by 1pm

Two-page Post-Museum Reflections due Friday by 1pm.

WEEK FOUR:

Monday—In Class

Modernity to Post Modernity

Introduction of the way in which Kantian philosophy gives rise to Phenomenology and Existentialism

Introduction to Existentialism

Introduction to Surrealism

Tuesday and Wednesday—In Class

Discussion of the following texts:

Sigmund Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams and Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious*

Sartre, *Being and Nothingness, Existentialism as Humanism*

Thursday—Museum Trip

Trip Visit: Tate Museum of Modern Art

We will be examining paintings by the following artists that are housed within the Tate collection:

Masson, Dali, Miro, Picasso, Magritte, Tanguy

Two-page Reading Analysis due Thursday by 1pm

Two-page Post-Museum Reflections due Friday by 1pm.

Final Paper due one week from the last day of class: August 17, 2018 by 1pm eastern standard time in my Oglethorpe University email inbox: aprintz@oglethorpe.edu