
SYLLABUS

School of Music
University of Florida

Seminar in Aesthetics

MUS 6905 (3)
Fall 2016
M (Periods 9-11)
MUB 146

Professor: Dr. John A. Duff
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Catalog Description

Discussion on the philosophy of the arts (aesthetics) and the creative process. Emphasis will focus on music; however, other arts will be discussed as well. Theories of important philosophers will be examined and compared.

Required Texts

Graham, G. (2005). *Philosophy of the arts: An introduction to aesthetics*. (3rd ed.) New York: Routledge.

Langer, Susanne K. (1953). *Feeling and form*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Book will be distributed during the first class.

Meyer, Leonard B. (1956). *Emotion and meaning in music*. The University of Chicago Press. Book will be distributed during the first class.

Rader, M. (1973). *A modern book of aesthetics: An anthology*. (4th ed.) New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston. Book will be distributed during the first class.

Resources on Reserve in the Music Library:

Cahn, Steven & Meskin, Aaron (Eds.). (2008). *Aesthetics: A comprehensive anthology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Levinson, Jerrold (Ed.). (2005). *The Oxford handbook of aesthetics*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Other Resources

1. Selected readings and other resources may be placed on reserve in the Music Library—
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/music/>
2. It is recommended you use Google Docs in this class. If you do not already have one, go to <http://drive.google.com> and sign up for a free account (if you have a Gmail address, you do have a Google Docs account).

Goals and Objectives

Through full participation in this course, the graduate music student will:

1. describe what makes an object or sound art and why it should be valued;
2. discuss the major theories of art as they apply to music, the visual arts, the literary arts, the performing arts, and architecture;
3. prepare and present to the class personal opinion comparing and contrasting views of influential philosophers;
4. develop an understanding of the artistic elements of each of the arts, including the creative process, and be able to discriminate the level of quality;
5. Learn and use appropriate terminology describing arts theory;
6. Present a lecture to the class on a topic related to the content of the course.

University Required Statements:

Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honor Policy

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Expectations

Workload: This graduate course requires considerable reading, along with discriminating reflection, writing, and discussion. Be prepared to devote the time necessary to be successful.

Attendance: Prompt attendance is expected as a demonstration of professional commitment. The heart of education at the University of Florida is the teaching/learning interaction between you the student and your instructors. Because of this belief, class attendance is regarded as an essential part of the "contract" between you and the University. You are expected to attend all classes for which you are registered. If you know you must be absent from this class, you should speak with the instructor before your absence, stating the reasons for your absence and agreeing upon a way to make up the work. Absences for illness and other valid reasons will be excused when **advanced notice** is provided. If you have a valid reason for an absence on an examination day, and you let me know in advance, you will be permitted to make up the test at a mutually convenient time. Exams must be made up as soon as possible after your return to class, and no later than one week following your return.

Class Participation: Because active and articulate oral interchange increases verbal skills and promotes a stimulating classroom atmosphere, the instructor will evaluate the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of each student's oral contributions to the class. Although no attempt will be made to translate this evaluation into an objective number of points, the instructor will use his subjective judgment of this behavior in the determination of borderline final grades. The dynamics of this class, and its ultimate value to you, require you to come to class prepared (read assignments), bringing questions and comments to stimulate discussions.

Email: Your UFL email account is the official email address used by the University, where official correspondence is sent. Important communication regarding this course may also take place via email, and your UFL email address is what will be used. All students need to regularly check their email, at least one time per day. Make checking it part of your daily routine. Likewise, unless there are extenuating circumstances, when you send me an email during the week (M-F) you can expect a reply within 24 hours. I will reply on weekends as I am able.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Assessment

Assignment	Description	Weight
Contemporary views	Lead brief discussions about contemporary art and make a case for or against as assigned	.10
Discussion Leader	Facilitates discussion on assigned readings	.15
Final Project	Journal containing weekly reflections as well as other written assignments	.25
Lectures	Prepare a lecture on a topic related to the course and present to the class	.15

Personal Theory of Art

Formulate your personal theory on what is unique about the arts and why they are important .15

Weekly Reflections

Reflect in writing on each week's readings and class discussions and activities .20

Grading Scale			Letter to Numerical Grade Conversion	
99-100	A+		Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent
93-98	A			
90-92	A-		A+	100
87-89	B+		A	95
83-86	B		A-	91
80-82	B-		B+	88
77-79	C+		B	85
73-76	C		B-	81
70-72	C-		C+	78
67-69	D+		C	75
63-66	D		C-	71
60-62	D-		D+	68
59 & below	F		D	65
			D-	61
			F	55

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC
August 22	<p>Course introduction and overview; what does the term aesthetics mean and why should we as musicians understand its basic concepts?</p> <p>Assignment for next week, August 29: Read the assigned readings and write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading. Begin a course-long journal containing reflections, lecture notes, and other writings to be shared with the class at the end of the semester. Express your thoughts in class discussion.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 1 Art and Pleasure</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
29	<p>Discussion on art and pleasure. Present your reflection to the class.</p> <p>Assignment for September 12: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 2 Art and Beauty</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
September 5	<p>Labor Day</p>
12	<p>Discussion on art and beauty. Present reflections to the class.</p> <p>Assignment for September 19: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 3 Art and Emotion</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
19	<p>Discussion on art and emotion. Present reflections to the class.</p>

	<p>Assignment for September 26: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 4 Art and Understanding</p> <p>Rader, to be assigned</p>
26	<p>Discussion on art and understanding. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for October 3: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 5 Music and Sonic Arts</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
October	<p>3 Discussion on music and sonic arts. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for October 10: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 6 The Visual Arts</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
	<p>10 Discussion on the visual arts. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for October 17: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 7 The Performing Arts</p> <p>Rader, To be assigned</p>
	<p>17 Discussion on the performing arts. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for October 24: Prepare a 20-minute lecture on a related topic in the course.</p>

		<p>Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 8 Architecture as an Art</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
	24	<p>Discussion on architecture and art. Reflections...</p> <p>Present student lectures.</p> <p>Assignment for October 31: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 9 Modern Art</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
	31	<p>Discussion on modern art. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for November 7: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 11 The Aesthetics of Nature</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
November	7	<p>Discussion on aesthetics of nature. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for November 14: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Graham, chapter 12 Theories of Art</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
	14	<p>Discussion of theories of art. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for November 21: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts</p>

		<p>to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Meyer, Emotion and Meaning in Music, Chapters to be assigned</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
	21	<p>Discussion of assigned readings. Reflections...</p> <p>Assignment for November 28: Write a reflection summarizing the main points from the reading and expressing your thoughts to be shared with the class.</p> <p>Prepare and present a 20-minute lecture stating your personal philosophy on aesthetics.</p> <p>Meyer, Emotion and Meaning in Music, Chapters to be assigned</p> <p>Langer, To be assigned</p>
	28	<p>Discussion of assigned reading readings. Reflections...</p> <p>Meyer, Emotion and Meaning in Music, Chapters to be assigned</p> <p>Student lectures presented</p>
December	5	<p>Final Discussion on reading.</p> <p>Meyer, Emotion and Meaning in Music, Chapters to be assigned</p> <p>Journals to be submitted electronically for distribution to the class,</p> <p>We will meet during finals if there is a need.</p>

This syllabus is a guide. It may vary as needed.