

PHILOSOPHY 366 AESTHETICS

Fall 2007

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The aim of this course is to make the student familiar with, and conversant about, basic and various issues in the history of aesthetic inquiry. Hence the study of the work of pivotal figures in that history in considerable detail.

The required readings come from the following books:

*Phaedrus* [Hackett Press Edition], Plato;  
*Philosophies of Art and Beauty*, Hofstadter and Kuhns, eds.;  
*The Brothers Booth*, Bradley

The following readings are presented with the examination schedule:

Examination I  
Plato: *Phaedrus*.

Examination II  
Aristotle: "Theory of Music";  
Plotinus: "Ennead I, Sixth Tractate".

Examination III: Hume (No assigned reading);  
Kant: *Critique of Judgment*.

Examination IV  
Schopenhauer: *The World as Will and Representation*;

Examination V  
Hegel: *The Philosophy of Fine Art*.

Examination VI

Bradley: *The Brothers Booth*

Examination VII  
Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy*.

Examination VIII\*  
Heidegger: *The Origin of the Work of Art*;

By way of helping the student anticipate both general and particular matters that will be entertained throughout the course, opening day offers a rather 'detailed overview' of the course. Good note-taking should begin at this very early point.

#### GRADES

The grade for the course will be the average drawn from all test scores and determined according to the following scale:

A = 88 - 100    B = 77 - 87    C = 66 - 77    D = 55 - 65    F = 0 - 54.

There is no curving of grades. **The professor will not drop the lowest grade. There is no outside work for extra credit.**

As this is a (W) writing enhanced course, errors in grammar (including, but not limited to, errors in contractions, possessives, subject-verb agreement, punctuation, or run-on sentences, etc.) will be considered incorrect.

While this is a (W) writing enhanced course, some portions of tests may be graded by a scantron (scantron #882). The student is advised to bring a scantron for each test just in case. However, over 51% of the points for the course will be awarded from the written parts of the exams. These written parts will take the form of sometimes short, sometimes long, but always precisely written answers pertinent to the given question(s).

There will be no make-up exams (except in extraordinary circumstances with documentation). Should a student miss one exam, the student's lowest grade will be substituted for that missed exam. Should a student miss a second exam, the score for that exam will be a zero.

Given extenuating circumstances, some portions of the course may have to be omitted or augmented.

The professor will only review graded exams upon their return in class. Only at that time will revisions to a grade (always upward) be made. This fact makes attendance a virtue.

#### ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance will have consequences. Four to six unexcused absences will result in a demerit of an entire letter grade for the entire course. Seven or more unexcused absences will result in a demerit of two entire letter grades for the entire course.

This course will be directed as a lecture course. There are no group discussions, etc.

However, each student should feel free to interrupt a lecture at any time should he or she be confused, curious, or particularly enthusiastic about a topic. Questions, comments, and constructive class participation are encouraged. Do not be shy or afraid to ask questions.

#### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

#### STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center . They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center: Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

### VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office

### Q-DROPS

A Q-drop is a drop made after the last date for tuition refunds (12<sup>th</sup> class day for fall/spring; 4th class day for summer) but before the date for which a drop would result in the grade of 'F' as published in the Academic Calendar.

Students will be allowed no more than five Q-drops during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes that are dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Students who have used their limit of five Q-drops will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop a class, a student will be required to remain in the class.

This limit will take effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester. Any drops accumulated prior to the fall 2004 semester will not be included in the five Q-drop limit, nor will Q-drops from other universities.

There are no predetermined test dates. (There may be limitations in required readings or test offerings at any point in the semester.) The grade for the course will be the average drawn from all of the test scores and determined according to this scale:

A=88-100 B=77-87 C=66-76 D=55-65 F=0-54.

There will be no curving of grades.

The professor will not drop the lowest grade.

Make-up exams will be taken at the end of the semester, at a time and place determined by the professor.

There will be no outside work for extra credit.

Given unforeseen course dynamics, there could be a change in the material posted on the first page of this syllabus, either by way of addition or subtraction; although such change would be minimal in light of the whole

The student is entirely responsible for decisions regarding drop days.

The professor believes it would behoove all students to attend class consistently. Poor attendance (beyond two unexcused absences, as each session is 85 minutes) will result in a lowering of the grade for the course by a full letter; four unexcused absences, two letters; six, three letters.

Those with claims of learning disability, and so forth, may first inquire as to procedure at the Counseling Center.

#### *STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY*

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the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

#### *DISABLED STUDENT POLICY*

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

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