

# Course Outline Form for Winter 2015

## Instructions

- The attached form is to be used for submitting course outlines electronically to the Chair, Director or Associate Director of your academic unit. This form is formatted and structured to be compliant with AODA requirements.
- Please note that all course outlines must be reviewed and approved by the Chair, Director or Associate Director of your academic unit prior to distribution.
- This form is to be used for all undergraduate and diploma courses.
- Please do not modify the format of this form when submitting it to your department for review. Formatting changes (but NOT content changes) can be made to the version published for student use.
- Detailed instructions and guides are provided in *red italic* text. Please replace this text in your final version.
- Content for each section (e.g. lecture content, grading policy, etc.) can be cut and pasted from existing course outlines.
- The completed forms will be transferred to an electronic archive. In subsequent semesters instructors will be able to load, edit and update their course outlines on-line.

### IMPORTANT:

*In order to maintain AODA compliance please do not alter fonts, headings or hyperlinks. Please do not use bold or italic fonts in your text. You may use the style "Strong" to highlight text or the style "Quote" in place of italics (options available in Word under the "Styles" menu on the Home Tab). This accommodates screen readers.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT ASSIGNMENT DATES AND GRADE WEIGHTINGS CANNOT BE ALTERED DURING THE SEMESTER EXCEPT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE POLICY.

A MINIMUM OF ONE GRADED ASSIGNMENT OR TEST MUST BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE FORTIETH CLASS DAY.

# **PHIL \*4160, Course Outline: Winter 2015**

## **General Information**

**Course Title: Philosophy Field Course**

### **Course Description:**

In W15 the Philosophy Field Course will deal with art (mainly but not entirely visual) and with issues in the philosophy of art. The off-campus component of the course will involve visits to artists, galleries, gallery curators, and academics in disciplines outside philosophy (e.g. design, architecture, creative writing). We will visit locations in Guelph and in Toronto. This course will involve a significant research project (not necessarily an essay: digital projects, art-projects are encouraged). Short reflective and analytical written pieces are also components of the course. There will be classroom discussion of philosophical and other texts. A significant portion of the grade will be for participation, which is essential in this course.

**Credit Weight: 1.0**

**Academic Department (or campus): Philosophy**

**Semester Offering: W15**

**Class Schedule and Location: Thursday 11:30-2:30, Digital Resources Centre (Federal Bldg.)**

## **Instructor Information**

Instructor Name: Don Dedrick

Instructor Email: [ddedrick@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ddedrick@uoguelph.ca)

Office location and office hours:

MacKinnon 329 Tuesday 12-2; by appointment

## **Course Content**

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand some of the main philosophical views about art
2. Understand, specifically, the institutional theory of art

3. Appreciate the different purposes of different arts organizations in Guelph.
4. Develop approaches to discussing art with artists, gallerists, academics, arts organizations
5. Understand how different arts oriented organizations, including artists, interact to constitute the/a "artworld."

**Lecture Content:**

We shall frame our investigations in terms of a particular definitional theory of art, the "Institutional Theory." (IT) While this theory is controversial, it claims that some X is an artwork because a specific institution ("the artworld" as the philosopher Arthur Danto called it) confers that status upon it. This view helps to make sense of the fact that virtually any X may, under the appropriate circumstance, be a work of art: Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain", which is (or was) a urinal, most famously. Other famous/infamous examples include an artist's canned excrement, found objects, holes dug in the ground, randomly recorded sounds, walks in the woods, acts of masturbation and/or mutilation. This list merely scratches the surface, but it indicates the main strengths of the IT: it is "content neutral" which seems an advantage given the wide range of X's that have been denominated "art." Philosophers have been critical of the IT for a number of reasons to be discussed throughout the course, and it is not the purpose of the course to find this theory true or false. As noted, it provides a frame (or framework) for thinking about not just artefacts (e.g. paintings, songs, poems, photographs, performances) but about the conditions under which they are produced, transmitted, cognized, and consumed. This we shall do in the "real world" of art, not just the classroom.

A second related "frame" for this course concerns the question of value. If the institutional theory aims to tell us what counts as art (in the content-neutral sense outlined above), it does not specify what counts as "good/bad art." If we mark this distinction between the identification of art (the province of the IT), and the evaluation of art, we may conclude that an independent account of evaluation is required (or, at least, that evaluation is a separate matter). As difficult as an account of evaluation may be, many of our judgments about art concern value, and so it is a goal of this course to track the evaluative question (about the good, the bad, the ugly--and the beautiful) through the various contexts with which we shall engage.

**Course Assignments and Tests:**

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major project	April 1	50	1-5
Discussion/Participation	weekly	25	1-5
Short written pieces	weekly	20	1-5

**Final examination date and time:**

NA

**Final exam weighting:** NA

**Course Resources****Required Texts:**

But is it Art? Cynthia Freeland. Oxford.

**Other Resources:**

Supplementary readings will be accessible from the course website: Courselink

**Course Policies****Grading Policies**

Late work is not accepted without acceptable documentation. If accepted, there is no penalty; if not accepted, the grade is zero.

**Course Policy on Group Work:**

NA

**Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

**University Policies****Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

## **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

## **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

## **Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

**Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday March 6. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)