



PHIL*3050 Philosophy of Art

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 05, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course considers various philosophical questions concerning art such as the nature of a work of art, the nature of beauty, the relationship between the artist and the audience, the task of the art critic, the social function of art.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

Through ongoing, concrete reflection on individual works of art and through the careful study of philosophical texts, we will try to understand what art is and what role it plays in human culture. We will focus especially on two great philosophical works—Hegel's *Aesthetics* and Dewey's *Art as Experience*—supplemented by various other readings, including readings by contemporary artists. The final portion of the class is an experiential learning component that will be a "case study" of *the museum*. For this segment of the course, you will work with Dawn Owen of the Guelph Civic Museum to investigate practically the artistic, philosophical and political issues involved in curating exhibitions.

1.3 Timetable

Course meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30. For the experiential learning component, there will be flexibility in the scheduling of your times visiting and working at the museum.

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

The Final Examination for this class is scheduled for Thursday April 16, 2:30-4:30.

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	John Russon
Email:	jrusson@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53553
Office:	MCKN 338

3 Learning Resources

This course has two components: a lecture component and an experiential learning component.

For the lecture component (the first 9 weeks), we will engage in a focused study of two great philosophical texts, Hegel's *Aesthetics* and Dewey's *Art as Experience*. You are required to have both of these texts and you need to bring them with you to class when we are studying them.

There will also be a few required supplemental readings, which will be available as PDFs on courselink.

For the experiential learning component, there will be no specified text, but you will be required to make a number of visits to the Guelph Civic Museum where you will work on a project with Dawn Owen.

3.1 Required Resources

Hegel, *Aesthetics* Volume 1 (Textbook)

Dewey, *Art as Experience* (Textbook)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Analyze* and *evaluate* major historical and/or conceptual developments in philosophy.
2. *Identify* and *critically evaluate* the practical significance of major developments in

aesthetics.

3. *Read and comprehend* complex original source materials in the history and problems of philosophy.
 4. *Write* clearly and cogently on advanced problems in philosophy.
 5. *Be skilled* in the use of key tools for sound justification and rational persuasion, including formal and informal logic, the gathering of empirical evidence, the discerning of implicit bias and the balanced judgment of conflicting interpretations.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Weeks 1 through 9

Topics:

We will meet for lectures during the normally scheduled times, up to Wednesday March 11. There will be readings specified for each of those meetings, and it is your responsibility to come to those meetings prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

5.2 Experiential Learning Project

For the final three weeks of the course, you will meet with Dawn Owen at the Guelph Civic Museum. In consultation with her, you will work out a project that you will engage in at the museum, pertinent to the issues surrounding the mounting of exhibitions. (We will read Fred Wilson, "Mining the Museum," for orientation to this project.)

6 Assessments

This is a class that, overall, will be more oriented to the process of study through ongoing participation than to the production of "results." Your primary responsibility is to complete the readings and to participate regularly and actively in class meetings. Your assessment in this course will be based on three major assignments. You will write one in-class test, you will write one critical essay and you will work on a project at the Guelph Civic Museum (the results of which will be discussed in our scheduled final exam time-slot).

6.1 Assessment Details

In-class Test (35%)

Date: Wed, Feb 12

You will write an in-class test on Benjamin, Hegel and art history. Details will be handed out in class.

Critical Essay (35%)

Date: Mon, Mar 16

This will be a 6-page (double-spaced) essay on a topic related to Dewey and contemporary art. Details will be handed out in class.

Experiential Learning Project/Final Examination (30%)

Date: Mon, Mar 16 - Thu, Apr 2

In consultation with Dawn Owen, you will work on a project of your own designing at the Guelph Civic Museum. This is a study project more focused on "process" that result; it may involve you writing something (an essay or report), creating or performing something, or otherwise making a short presentation about what you worked on during the three weeks. We will meet as a class during our scheduled final examination period to discuss these projects.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
