University of Texas at Arlington

Department of Philosophy and Humanities

Phil 2313 Dr. Charles Nussbaum

Philosophy of the Arts T Th 12:30-1:50 Spring 2015

Office: 308 Carlisle E-mail: nussbaum@uta.edu

Office Hours: 2-3 Th

(and by appointment)

SYLLABUS

Course Description

In this course we shall discuss the ontological issue of what a work of art, visual, literary, or musical, is (the answer varies significantly from one art form to another); the metaphysical issue of the status of aesthetic properties, fictional characters, and fictional worlds; the epistemological issue of what knowledge (if any) we derive from a work of art; the semiotic issues of the symbolism and meaning of works of art; the historical and social issues of what is regarded and designated as a work of art; and the psychological issues of the understanding of works of art and human emotional response to works of art. We shall also discuss aspects of two of art’s degenerate cousins, propaganda and pornography.

Texts:

Jerrold Levinson: *Music, Art, and Metaphysics* (Cornell, 1990) (Copy on reserve.)

Mette Hjort and Sue Laver (eds.): *Emotion and the Arts* (Oxford, 1997)

 A set of articles on e-reserve.

Requirements:

Two take-home essay assignments and an in-class final exam, all equally weighted. Optional term paper.

Attendance and Exam Policy:

Regular attendance is expected, but not graded. Please do not make a practice of coming in late. If you must be late on some occasion, try to enter as unobtrusively as possible. The take-home assignments must be handed in on time, the term paper by the end of final exam week. All incompletes must be made up by the start of the following long semester.

Individual Attention:

If you are disabled in any way and require special accommodations, please talk to me privately. I am available at any time during office hours for discussion with any student. If you cannot visit during office hours, do not hesitate to make an appointment.

Academic Dishonesty

For definitions and procedures concerning academic dishonesty please consult the UTA Undergraduate Catalogue and the published guidelines established by The Undergraduate Assembly, Student Congress, and the Research and Evaluation Office/Student Affairs.

# University Statement

“The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded

programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office

of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.”

Schedule of Readings:

Introductory

Levinson: “Defining Art Historically.”

Dean: “The Nature of Concepts and the Definition of Art.” On e-reserve.

Ontology and Metaphysics

Goodman: "Art and Authenticity."On e-reserve.

Levinson: "Autographic and Allographic Art Revisited."

Kivy: "Platonism in Music: A Kind of Defense." On e-reserve.

Levinson: "What a Musical Work Is."

Levinson: "Aesthetic Supervenience."

Dennett: “The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity.” On e-reserve.

Meaning and Representation

Goodman: "Representation Re-presented." On e-reserve.

Goodman: "How Buildings Mean." On e-reserve.

Robinson: "Music as a Representational Art." On e-reserve.

Understanding, Knowledge, and Emotion

K. Walton: "Spelunking, Simulation, and Slime: On Being Moved by Fiction." In Hjort and Laver.

Feagin: "Imagining Emotions and Appreciating Fiction." In Hjort and Laver.

Currie: "The Paradox of Caring: Fiction and the Philosophy of Mind." In Hjort and Laver.

Currie: "Imagination and Simulation: Aesthetics Meets Cognitive Science." On e-reserve.

Carroll: "Art, Narrative, and Emotion." In Hjort and Laver.

Pornography and Propaganda

Langton and

West: "Scorekeeping in a Pornographic Language Game." On e-reserve.

Gendler: “The Puzzle of Imaginative Resistance.” On e-reserve.

Frankfurt: “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person.” On e-reserve.

D. Walton: “What Is Propaganda and What Exactly Is Wrong with It?” On e-reserve.