This is a very general aesthetics course. Its aim is to review major aesthetic theories, while admitting the impossibility of covering all of them. No one art will be privileged over any other. Examples will be taken from literature, music, painting, sculpture and other arts. No one period in the history of aesthetics will be stressed over any other. Especially our own period and its aesthetic theories will be treated as only one period, not to be valued as the most important one. Among the aestheticians to be treated are Aristotle, Bergson, Nietzsche, and the twentieth century modernists.

The questions considered in this course are equally broad. Is art good for us or not? What are its socially positive values? Negative? What is the nature of art? Can we define it? Among the arts is the predominant or primary art? (Music, for example?) What is the "aesthetic attitude"? Can we define it? What is beauty? What is its opposite, ugliness? Does art involve both?

This course is primarily lecture-oriented but will include class discussions. New materials from art books, magazines, and aesthetic treatises may be added to the course in medias res.
List of Textbooks

Paperback.

Other ISBN ok.

Friedrich Nietzsche. The Birth of Tragedy.

London: Penguin Classics,

ISBN 01446362

Tom Wolfe. The Painted Word. New York:
Picador 2008 Paperback


REQUIREMENTS

This course will involve two hour examinations and one final examination. Any graduate student sitting in on the course will be required, in addition, to write a term paper.

Each examination will consist of an objective part and an essay part. The objective part will consist of True-False, Multiple choice and fill-in-the blank components and will account for 33% of the grade. The essay part will consist of six or seven questions, of which the student may answer one or two. The essay will count for 67% of the grade.

The final examination will have the same two-part structure as the two hour exams and like them will count for one-third of the course grade.

LATE / MAKEUP POLICY

Extensions are not granted, except in case of illness or loss of a family member. If work cannot be submitted for these reasons, the student can resolve the situation with the professor after returning to the course. Documentation can be provided in office hours, by appointment or at the next class the student is able to attend, at the student’s discretion. A makeup arrangement will be worked out by mutual agreement based on the student’s need.

GRADING POLICY

This course is graded according to the requirements specified and weighted below. Discussion postings receive a numerical grade; class presentations and the research paper receive a letter grade. Letter and numerical grades are translatable on the following scale:

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Roll will be taken in each class meeting. Failure to attend class will result in lower grades.

OTHER

Professor Gunter’s telephone number is (940) 387-8948

His email address is – gunter@unt.edu

He much prefers telephone calls

Discussions outside of class can be arranged.
1/14  First Class Day. Introduction to the class.
      Assignment:

1/16  Aristotle. Poetics. Read first half.

1/21  Aristotle. Poetics. Read second half.

1/2  Birth of Tragedy vii-xxx, 3-12

1/28  Birth of Tragedy 45-85, 14-45

1/30  Birth of Tragedy 45-85

2/4   Birth of Tragedy 85-117

2/6   Painted Word 1-32

2/11  Painted Word 53-58

2/13  Painted Word 59-99

2/18  Intro to Metaphysics ix-xxxiv

2/20  Intro to Metaphysics 1-37

2/25  Intro to Metaphysics 38-54

2/27  First Hour Examination

3/3   From Aesthetics: The Big Questions; Viet Nam Memorial, 127
3/5  The Art World 33-54
3/9-3/13 Spring Break
3/17 Immanuel Kant 264-273
3/19 Immanuel Kant 300-304
3/24 Discussion of Kant in Class
3/26 Why are There No Great Women Artists 31-32
3/31 Gender and Genius 305-313
4/2 Poe ...Into the Maelstrom 244-255
4/7 From A Philosophical Enquiry 255-263
4/9 Truth and Other Cultures 338-343
4/14 Zen and the Art of Tea 55-58
4/16 John Dewey: Live Creature 9-32
4/21 Dr. Gunter and the Forest (handout)
4/23 The Aesthetic Attitude 78-83
4/28 Locating the Aesthetic 84-90
4/30 Preparation for Final Exam
5/5 Final Examination: 10:30-12:30