

PHI 1800H Philosophy of Art (Aesthetics) Spring 2024 Dr. Johnson and Dr. Soloveichik  
3 credits

**Contact Information:**

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**Course Description:**

Utilizing both classical and modern philosophical texts, as well as works of theology and biblical exegesis, this course will address the nature of beauty, the possible moral dangers inherent in art, the nature and meaning of music, the relationship between ethics and aesthetics, the nature and meaning of literature and drama, the way in which a work of art can embody a philosophical thesis, and more. The class will also examine the work of modern Jewish thinkers that engaged in deep study of philosophical texts and then, in their own work, contrasted the Hebraic approach to art and the image with that of several different philosophical schools.

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will become familiar with, and will become able to assess critically, various claims and arguments which have been made about art, literature, and music. The following Goals and Student Learning Objectives of the Philosophy Department are addressed in this course, both for majors and for non-majors:

1. Philosophy majors will be able to analyze and evaluate arguments.

Student Learning Objective (1b): Students will be able to extract arguments from English prose.

2. Philosophy majors will be well acquainted with philosophical issues pertinent to the field.

Student Learning Objective (2a): Students will be able to communicate a selection of fundamentally important philosophical arguments, claims, problems, and paradoxes.

3. Philosophy majors will be able to construct their own philosophical arguments.

Student Learning Objective (3a): Students will be able to exhibit original and valid arguments for philosophical claims, and to respond in an intellectually serious way to criticisms of the premises of the argument.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:** None

**Materials (Texts) Needed for Class:** All texts and materials will be provided.

**Assignments:** Final Essay Examination; Term Paper

**Method of Assessing Student Achievement:**

The extent to which students have achieved Student Learning Objectives (1b) and (2a) will be assessed by observing the level of \_\_\_\_\_, and the level of \_\_\_\_\_, that is exhibited in their essays on the Final examination. The extent to which students have achieved Student Learning Objective (3a) will be assessed by observing the level of \_\_\_\_\_, and the level of \_\_\_\_\_, that is exhibited in mxtel e



F Apr 5: The Artist as Philosopher: Reading Van Gogh, Seeing Van Gogh  
Vincent Van Gogh,

F Apr 12: Finding Philosophy in Art: Seeing Turner, Reading Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik  
Joseph Soloveitchik, "Majesty and Humility"

F May 3: Concluding Reflection: Must All Goods Resemble God? A Modern Neoplatonist  
Approach  
Robert Adams, , selections