Philosophy of Art (PHIL 361I) (#9947) -- Fall 2010 -- California State University, Long Beach
Mondays and Wednesdays – 9:30-10:45 am -- LA5-246
Julie Van Camp, Professor of Philosophy

Texts:
• Much of the reading for the course will consist of articles on the World Wide Web and a few articles from journals available on the Electronic Resources and the e-Reserves for this class at the University Library site (http://www.csulb.edu/library/)
• Print text (required): Terry Barrett, Why Is That Art? Aesthetics and Criticism of Contemporary Art (Oxford, 2008) (list price: $34.95)

Reading and class schedule
Please come prepared to each class having read the reading listed for that day.

Monday, August 30
I. Art, Non-Art, and the Aesthetic
What is Philosophy? What are philosophical questions and methodologies? How does philosophical “talk” about art differ from art appreciation, art history, and art criticism?
Introduction to Beachboard and the Electronic Resources
Beachboard Quiz on Plagiarism Policy: Available 8/30-9/12 (4 points available)

Wednesday, September 1
“Art, Philosophy, and the Philosophy of Art,” by Arthur Danto
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r1.html

Monday, September 6: LABOR DAY

Wednesday, September 8:
“Comments on Andres Serrano” by members of the United States Senate
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r7.html
Barrett, Chapter 2, “Serrano” (pp. 38-43)
Definition of “the arts” by the United States Congress
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r8.html

Monday, September 13:
“'Psychical Distance' as a Factor in Art and as an Aesthetic Principle” by Edward Bullough
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r9.html
Barrett, Chapter 1, “Artworlds and Definitions” (pp. 1-15)

Wednesday, September 15* [attendance point-1]
II. Major theories of the Arts
Barrett, Chapter 2, “Realism” (pp. 17-20; 30-32; 46-52)
“The Ion” by Plato
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r10.html
“The Republic (Book X) (#1-200) by Plato
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r11.html

Monday, September 20* [attendance point-2]
“Poetics,” by Aristotle
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r12.html
Short paper assignment posted on Beachboard

Wednesday, September 22* [attendance point-3]
Barrett, Chapter 4, “Formalism” (pp. 107-108; 110-118; 139-141)

Monday, September 27* [attendance point-4]
“Art” by Clive Bell
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r13.html
Wednesday, September 29
SHORT PAPERS DUE IN CLASS: Please send one copy electronically to the Turnitin Dropbox no later than the start of class (9:30 a.m.) and bring to class 5 print-outs which you will use for break-out discussion groups to critique each other's work. In order to be eligible to submit a revision for bonus points, you must attend this class in person. (12 points)

Monday, October 4* [attendance point-5]
"What is Art?" by Leo Tolstoy
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r14.html
Barrett, Chapter 3, "Expressionism and Cognitivism" (pp. 57-62, 97-101)
Revised Short Paper Due for Bonus Points (4 points)

Wednesday, October 6* [attendance point-6]
Contemporary Approaches to the Definition of Art:
Barrett, Chapter 3 (pp. 64-65)

Monday, October 11 [attendance point-7]
Barrett, Chapter 5, "Postmodern Pluralism" (pp. 147-172)

Wednesday, October 13
Review for Mid-term Exam
Discussion Board opens for posting case study selection: 8:00 a.m.
Monday, October 18
MID-TERM EXAM (Units I and II) (24 points)

Wednesday, October 20* [attendance point-8]
III. The Evaluation of Art
aesthetics vs. art criticism
The Proper Object of Criticism: How does the philosopher's consideration of "good" in art compare/contrast with the art critic's consideration? What evidence is appropriate to consider in evaluation a work of art? Should only the perceivable properties of the work be considered? What is the relevance of the intention of the artist in identifying, appreciating, and evaluating a work of art?

DEADLINE: post your work of art for case studies for the remainder of the course on the Discussion Board

Monday, October 25* [attendance point-9]
"The Intentional Fallacy," W.K. Wimsatt, Jr. and Monroe C. Beardsley [University Library E-reserves]

Wednesday, October 27* [attendance point-10]

Monday, November 1* [attendance point-11]
"From Work to Text," Roland Barthes [University Library E-reserves]
DEADLINE: post description of your case study work (5 points)

Wednesday, November 3* [attendance point-12]
Criteria of Criticism: What are the criteria by which we evaluate a work of art? Are there general canons of criticism applicable to all works of art?
Monday, November 8 [attendance point-13]
**Aesthetic Value:** What is “aesthetic value,” i.e., what makes a work of art “good”? What is the relationship of moral value and aesthetic value?
“The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361_r6.html

Wednesday, November 10 [attendance point-14]
“The Republic (Book X) (#200-319) by Plato
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r11.html

Monday, November 15
“Degenerate Art” (Documentary): *NOTE: This film is not available at the Library and copies cannot be left on reserve. Please make maximum effort to attend this class as it will be the only opportunity to see this.*
DEADLINE: post interpretation of your case study work on the discussion board (5 points)

Wednesday, November 17* [attendance point-15]

Monday, November 22: NO CLASS
Wednesday, November 24: NO CLASS

Monday, November 29 [attendance point-16]
**Subjectivity vs. Objectivity in Aesthetic Value:** Is “aesthetic value” an objective property of works of art? A relation between object and observer? The capacity of an object for producing aesthetic experiences?
“Of the Standard of Good Taste” by David Hume
http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r15.html

Wednesday, December 1* [attendance point-17]
Barrett, “David Hume” (pp. 109-110)

**Value in Art: originality**
Monday, December 6* [attendance point-18]
“Originality in Post-Modern Appropriation Art” by Julie Van Camp (Beachboard)
DEADLINE: post evaluation of your case study work on the discussion board (5 points)

Wednesday, December 8
review for final exam

**FINAL EXAM** (Units I and III): Friday, December 17: 8:00-10:00 am (24 points)
A work of art will be presented, along with written information about it. You will have two hours to discuss and analyze the work using the concepts and ideas of the course material.

*Available for in-class attendance points

8/16/2010: subject to revision until August 30, 2010