

Philosophy of Art (PHI 2222)
Spring 2018 Tuesday-Thursday 10.15-11.45

Instructor: Prof. Gabriella Szigethy

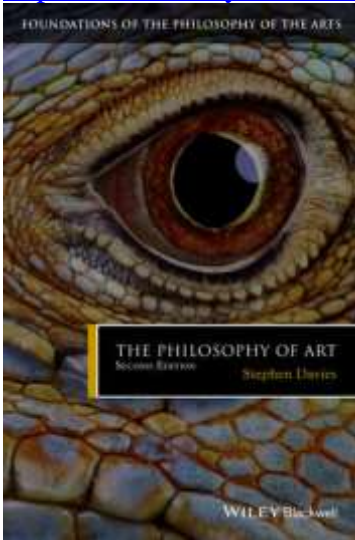
Email: gabiszigethy@gmail.com

Office Hours: by appointment

MANDATORY READING

Stephen Davies, *The Philosophy of Art*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2nd ed., 2016.

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Philosophy+of+Art%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781119091653>



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The philosophy of art for many is something obscure and way too elevated: the somewhat outdated study of the beautiful and the sublime at best. And the philosopher of art a scholar in his ivory tower contemplating rules whose exact meaning and importance the average man in the street will never even fathom. This course has multiple aims: through looking at a variety of art forms and products students will try to look behind this somewhat old-fashioned understanding of aesthetics on the one hand and find methods to propagate a more contemporary and more political study of the arts on the other. And last, but not least, they will learn skills to find out how canonical and non-canonical art production has always been intimately related to each other.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- a more accentuated and controversial and narrower selection of works and procedures of visual art in and outside institutionalized art history
- reading extensively criticism of art
- reading contemporary theory of art
- discussing canon issues by reading, looking at, listening to and watching art production from a variety of art fields
- writing up experiences with art production in a personal way. Personal does not mean psychologizing or overemotional, unsubstantiated. It means that to understand the versatility of canons and core values students have to acquire skills in new objectivity and put them to use in their own writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- a better understanding of the relations between different branches of art,
- a re-assessment of value, of the core definitions of canon in art, of how the art market operates,

- a critical-theoretical reading of the societal and political factors in art production,
- and eventually an understanding of „There is no common notion of art that necessarily applies to all societies around the world.” (Hans Belting).

GRADING

Attendance:	10 % (after the second unexcused absence, all additional unexcused absence which a student accumulates results in an automatic drop of the final grade. Doctor’s papers submitted to the Secretariat. Participation. Attendance sheet undersigned before I start the class. Please arrive at class before the indicated time, otherwise you collect an unexcused absence. If you know you can only come later due to academic obligations, meetings with your professors etc, please notify me before the class starts. 10.20 am is the last time you can enter the classroom and participate.
Presentation:	30% For criteria see below
Midterm:	10% A short in-class Q & A plus a 400 word answer to a specific question prepared at home. Deadline: 22 March 2018 8 pm CET sharp via email.
Final Exam:	50% An essay of 2200 words on your chosen topic. Deadline: 17 May 2018 8 pm CET sharp via email. For criteria see below.

For class details see the attached schedule for the course. Attendance is vital for students to be able to follow closely the explanations. Contact your fellow-students for missing notes.

Criteria for presentation: (25 points each)

- 20 minute long presentation with PPT or equivalent
- tracking issues of interest
- offering solutions
- interaction with your audience

Criteria for essay: (25 points each)

- Clear academic structuring of what you want to say
- Spelling, grammar, word-processing
- Individuality of argument, independent reasoning
- New findings

Note the **Honor Code:** The College’s Honor Code will be strictly upheld under all circumstances. The deadlines for the Midterm, the Presentation and the Final Essay are definitive. Under no circumstances will tardiness be accepted. Make sure your assignments arrive a bit before the exact deadline so that no misunderstanding occurs. Failing to submit your assignments on time or to do your presentation on the assigned date automatically results in failing the assignment. If there is a medical issue, make sure your doctor’s papers arrive at the Secretariat before the deadline.