



PHI 3800 Aesthetics
 Philosophy Department
 CAH, University of Central Florida
COURSE SYLLABUS*
 (Last Updated August 22, 2016)

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Instructor: | Lanlan Kuang, PhD | Term: | Fall 2016 |
| Office: | Room 242, Psychology Building | Credit Hours: | 3 |
| Phone: | 407-823-4395 | Class Meeting Days: | Tues, Thurs |
| E-Mail: | lanlan.kuang@ucf.edu | Class Meeting Hours: | 1:30-2:45 |
| Website: | Instructor's personal website, if applicable | Class Location: | ENG 0435 |
| Office Hours: | Thursday 3:30-5:00; Please e-mail for reservation | | |

Federal regulations require that federal aid awards be based on courses in which students have completed an academically related activity. Effective beginning in fall 2014, federal aid awards will disburse based on the number of credit hours in which an academic activity has been confirmed. For details please visit: http://finaid.ucf.edu/academic-activity/academic_activity.html

I. Course Objective and Description:

This course is designed as an investigation into the nature of human artistic experience and a guide for recognizing the nature of aesthetics in different contexts from ancient to modern, and from East to West. Students will be (re) introduced to concepts such as art, beauty, truth, taste, class, power, value, race/ethnicity, gender, identity, tradition, and etc. by discussing assigned texts by philosophers, artist, and critics. Multimedia samples such as film and music and possible field trips will be used to facilitate the understanding of theories and methods. By the end of the semester students should be able to explain theoretically ideas of aesthetics, classical and modern, as well as apply them to case studies.

II. Required Texts and Materials (please obtain all required text by the end of the first week):

David E. Cooper, *Aesthetics: The Classic Readings*, Blackwell
 Julia Thomas, *Reading Images* (Readers in Cultural Criticism), Palgrave Macmillan
 Martin Heidegger, *Poetry, Language, Thought* (Perennial Classics), Harper Perennial Modern Classics
 John Ruskin, Dinah Birch (Editor), *Selected Writings*, Oxford University Press
 Italo Calvino, Patrick Creagh (Translator), *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group

Note: Please check the UCF (John C. Hitt/Main Campus) Library for Course Reservation (PHI 3800 Aesthetics).

III. Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

PDF files will be distributed by the instructor via the UCF Webcourses throughout the semester. Please make sure you check your Webcourses regularly for updated materials and announcements.

MLA Format and Citation Guidelines may be obtained from the Webcourses' Content Section. All writing assignments must follow the MLA format.

IV. Basis for Final Grade

Grading Criteria (see details below):

15 points Attendance, Participation, and Reading Questions (5 + 5 +5; see details below)

45 points 3 Take-home Exams (6 pages Issue Paper), 15 points each, consisted of 3 essay questions

12 points 3 Short Exercise (300-500 words Critics/Reflection), 4 points each

20 points Course Project: Paper and Presentation (see details below)

8 points Final Short Essay Exam based on Presentation Observations (see details below)

100 points + 1 points Extra Credit (1 Quizzes)

| Grading Scale (%) | |
|-------------------|----|
| 94-100 | A |
| 90-93 | A- |
| 87-89 | B+ |
| 84-86 | B |
| 80-83 | B- |
| 77-79 | C+ |
| 74-76 | C |
| 70-73 | C- |
| 67-69 | D+ |
| 64-66 | D |
| 60-63 | D- |
| 0 - 59 | F |

Grading Criteria Details☺:

Attendance:

See **Attendance Policy** section.

Class Participation (5 points):

- Free participation credits will be granted for the first week of class (2 lectures) and the one "no question asked" absent-pass lecture (0.75/5);
- You will have at least 20 more lectures to earn the remaining 4.25/5 points by actively engaging in discussion in class. Each time you actively participate in class discussion you will earn 0.25 points. ☺ Remember, however, *Participation* points (5/100) are individual based, *Lead Group* points are group based (5/100).

Reading Questions (5 points):

- Please print and submit 3 questions/topics based on your reading-assignments before each lecture;
- All reading questions must be prepared in the same format as the "sample reading question" file, which may be found in the "Samples and Guidelines" folder on Webcourses – only print-copy will be accepted.

The Reading Questions grading scale is as follow:

For every "so-so" (meaning, you read the material and ask relevant questions) assignment, you receive 0.15 points.

For every "good" (meaning, you know the material and ask intelligent questions) assignment, you receive 0.25 points.

For every "very good" (meaning, you know the material, think about it, and ask excellent questions) assignment, 0.35 points ☺

Three "One Question" Writing Assignments (300 words Critics/Reflection), 4 points each

- The writing assignments are designed to help you prepare for the take-home essay exams;
- Each writing assignment should be ~300 words, no more than 500 words, in MLA format;
- Each writing assignment is worth 4 points;
- Writing assignments are due in hard copies in class

Three Take-home Exams (45 points = 15 x 3 points each, Essay Questions)

- Each take-home exam will include multiple essay questions for you to choose from;
- YOU MUST ANSWER AT LEAST THREE QUESTIONS;**
- You will have at least one week to complete each of the three take-home essay exams;
- Each exam is worth 15 points;
- These short essay questions require you to reflect on the readings and class discussions while comparing and contrasting varying viewpoints, including your own. You should be able to define, describe, and discuss some of the new terms and ideas we learn in class. You **MUST** reflect carefully, and specifically, on the readings to get a good grade.
- You must upload an electronic copy to Webcourses before Noon on the Due Dates;**
- You must also print a hard copy and bring it to class on the due date to receive a grade.**

Course Project (20 points = 2 peer-review proposal + 6 presentation + 12 paper)

- Further details will be distributed in a separate handout. Each of you must prepare a one-page research paper proposal for peer review (**bring 6 hard copies to class**).
- You will receive feedbacks from your peers and from the Professor. Please note that the peer review process is worth 2 points. **EACH OF YOU WILL GIVE A 10 MINUTES PRESENTATION OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPER.**

Final Short Essay Exam based on Presentation Observations (8 points)

The final short essay exam (in class on Final Exam Day) is consisted of two questions based on course project presentations. Each question is worth 4 points of your entire grade.

V. **Grade Dissemination**

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: <https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/>.

VI. **Course Policies: Grades**

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for quizzes, exams, final exam, or presentation. Reading questions, research proposal, and essays will NOT be accepted if overdue.

Extra Credit Policy: There will be three in-class quizzes base on your reading assignments, each is worth 1 points of your total grade. Extra Credit points will be graded and applied at the end of the semester.

Grades of "Incomplete": The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Please note, your instructor must report to the departmental chair and the university will have the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Rewrite Policy: There will be no rewrite option. All assignment submitted on due date should be the best and final version of your work.

Group Work Policy:

Everyone must take part in a group – aka *Lead Group*. As the *Lead Group* you must engage the class on the TWO assigned dates by presenting research findings on a topic from the chapter and generating discussion. Each of the TWO *Lead Group* assignment will earn the group 2.5/100 points; a total of $2.5 \times 2 = 5/100$ points will be granted. All

members of a group must be presented on the assigned discussion date and will receive the same score; that is, the presentation is assessed and everyone receives this score. However, while you each will receive up to 2 points as a group member, the 0.5 is individual, and refers to your teamwork. Every person in the group will provide the instructor with a suggested grade (e.g. 0.3/0.5) for every other member of the group, and the instructor will assign a grade that is informed by those suggestions (e.g. $0.1 + 0.3 + 0.5 + \text{instructor's suggested grade } 0.5/4 = 0.35$). Once formed, groups cannot be altered or switched, except for reasons of extended hospitalization.

VII. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email:

- 1) For course related questions, such as questions concerning course materials or presentation dates, please send me a message via Webcourse2;
- 2) For meeting during my office hours, please send me a request for reservation at lanlan.kuang@ucf.edu;
- 3) For locating research materials and technology questions, please communicate with specialists at the **University Writing Center and/or the University Library**;
- 4) Emails concerning issues already stated in this syllabus, such as attendance policy, make-up exams policy, grading policy, and etc. **WILL NOT BE ANSWERED** since they have already been addressed in details here;
- 5) Expect 2 to 3 days for a response if your email is sent on weekdays;
- 6) Expect 3 to 5 days for a response if your email is sent on weekends, official holidays, and/or during my time away from campus for conference and/or research.

Webcourses: You are expected to be familiarized with Webcourses for checking course updates, submitting course assignments, and communicate with the instructor. If you have any questions, please contact the university tech service or the library for assistance.

Laptop Usage: Due to the fact that some of you may have purchased the electronic version of the textbook, laptop and/or iPad **MAYBE USED ONLY DURING GROUP DISCUSSION** for accessing reading materials.

Classroom Devices: Tape recorders and/or any other kinds of audio & visual technology devices **MAY NOT BE USED** for this course without the instructor's permission.

VIII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Attendance Policy: You lose 1 point on your overall grade every time you miss a class—unless you have a medical excuse supported with a doctor's note, signed and dated. Job-related absences are not excused even with a formal letter signed by your manager/director. Auto-incidents must be proofed with a note from the police officer or your insurance company. You are responsible for prioritizing your schedule. Absence due to major family incidents (such as wedding/funeral) may be excused only with a signed letter with a reachable phone number from your legal guidance.

Please note that if you come to class a) just to sign-in and leave before the end of the class or b) arriving 10 minutes late, you will loss the attendance point of the day.

You are granted ONE "no-questions asked absent pass" each semester. Use it wisely. ;)

Professionalism Policy: Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Please raise your hand and ask for permission before speaking or taking a restroom break. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. You are responsible for learning all contents in this syllabus and be familiar with class policies.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

Plagiarism: In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments **in both hard copy and electronic format**. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit <http://www.turnitin.com>. Essays are due online via Webcourse the same time as in class.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

IX. Important Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
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| Monday, August 22, 2016 - Friday, August 26, 2016 | Faculty to Confirm Academic Activity in Each Class |
| Thursday, August 25, 2016 | Last Day to Drop and Request Full Refund |
| Monday, September 05, 2016 | Labor Day. |
| Thursday, September 29, 2016 | No Class. Dr. Kuang will be at the Semiotic Society of America Conference. |
| Friday, October 21, 2015 | Dr. Kuang will be at the American Folklore Society/International Society for Folk Narrative Research Joint Conference. |
| Monday, October 31, 2016 | Grade Forgiveness/Withdrawal Deadline |
| Thursday, November 10, 2016 | No Class. Dr. Kuang will be at the Society of Ethnomusicology Conference. |
| Friday, November 11, 2016 | Veterans Day |
| Thursday, November 24, 2016 - Saturday, November 26, 2016 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Thursday, December 01, 2016 | Last Class Meeting prior Final Exam Day |
| Saturday, December 03, 2016 | Classes End; Last Day to Remove Incomplete |
| Monday, December 05, 2016 | No Class. Study Day |
| Thursday, December 06, 2016 | Final Exam |
| Thursday, December 15, 2016 | Grades Due |

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

X. Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income,

faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at www.shield.ucf.edu and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu

Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu

Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu

Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>

UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu

Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

Schedule*

| Date | In Class | Reading Assignment for Next Lecture | Prepare |
|---------|---|---|--|
| Aug-23 | Introduction Class assignment <i>Please join a group on Webcourse by Aug-25</i> Film in Class | Introduction (Cooper) Hegel (Cooper) Boas (Morphy and Perkins PDF) | Reading Questions; Discuss Class Assignment and Reading Assignments Quiz on Syllabus (Extra Credit) |
| Aug-25 | <i>Quiz on Course Syllabus (open-notes) Extra Credit</i> Discuss: Class Assignment and Reading Assignments | Plato (Cooper) Stecker PDF Hall PDF Aristotle (Cooper) Sorbom PDF Schoen-Nazzaro PDF | Reading Questions; Listening Sample 1 Listening Sample 2 Finish Film (Optional) |
| Aug-30 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Listening Samples | Worther PDF Levinson PDF | Reading Questions; Visual Sample 1 Visual Sample 2 |
| Sept-1 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Visual Samples | Mozi (Cooper) Sunzi (Cooper) Gu PDF Ho PDF | Reading Questions; Listening Sample 3 Listening Sample 4 Listening Sample 5 |
| Sept-6 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Listening Samples | Adorno PDF Zbikowski PDF | Reading Questions; Visual Sample 4 Visual Sample 5 Visual Sample 6 |
| Sept-8 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Visual Samples | Levinson PDF (2009) Shusterman PDF (1999) Chai PDF Egan PDF | Reading Questions; Video Sample 1 Video Sample 2 |
| Sept-13 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Hume (Cooper) Kant (Cooper) Schiller (Cooper) | Reading Questions; Listening Sample 6 Listening Sample 7 |

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|---------|---|--|---|
| | b) Matching Listening Sample with Visual Sample | Tauber PDF | |
| Sept-15 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Listening Samples | Somaesthetics PDF (2010) Clarke PDF Clarke and Kini PDF | Reading Questions; Listening Sample 8 Listening Sample 9 Listening Sample 10 |
| Sept-20 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Listening Samples <i>Writing Assignment 1 Question</i> | Coomaraswamy (Cooper) Schopenhauer (Cooper) Vandenabeele PDF | Reading Questions; Video Sample 2 Video Sample 3 |
| Sept-22 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Video Samples <i>Writing Assignment 1 Due</i> Film in Class | Cox PDF Feher PDF Adorno PDF | Reading Questions; Listening Sample 11 |
| Sept-27 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Listening Samples <i>Exam 1 Questions Distribute</i> | Wilf PDF Berlin PDF Barrett PDF | Film (Optional) |
| Sept-29 | No Class | Tolstoy (Cooper) Ruskin Finish the book | Film The Impressionist BBC |
| Oct-4 | Exam 1 Essay Due before Noon online & in class (hard copy) Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Bryson (thomas) Bell (Cooper) Dewey (Cooper) | Reading Questions; |
| Oct-6 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Collingwood (Cooper) Hospers PDF | Reading Questions; |
| Oct-11 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments <i>Research Guideline Distributed</i> | Morphy and Perkins PDF Shi-tao (Cooper) Karp PDF | Reading Questions; "Beautiful Forest" (Video of Song Dynasty Painting) |
| Oct-13 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Video Samples | "Painting Bamboo" (Su Shi) "Genius" (Su Shi) Way PDF Cahill PDF | Reading Questions (PDF); Visual Sample7 Visual Sample 8 Visual Sample 9 |
| Oct-18 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments b) Visual Samples | Introduction (thomas) Gregory (thomas) Barthes (thomas) | Reading Questions (CH30); |
| Oct-20 | <i>Writing Assignment 2 Question</i> Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Lacan (thomas) Janawy PDF Foucault (thomas) Foucault (This is not a Pipe) | Reading Questions |
| Oct-25 | <i>Writing Assignment 2 Due</i> Discuss: a) Reading Assignments Film in Class | Coward (thomas) Stacy (thomas) hook (thomas) | Reading Questions |
| Oct-27 | <i>Research Proposal Due for Peer-Review</i> Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Bourdieu PDF Sontag (thomas) Baudrillard (thomas) | Reading Questions Film (Reserved at Library) |
| Oct-27 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Benjamin (thomas) Zizek (thomas) | Reading Questions |

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|--------|--|---|--|
| Nov-1 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments Exam 2 Questions Distribute Film in Class | Foucault PDF Barthes PDF Derrida (thomas) | Reading Questions Film (Reserved at Library) |
| Nov-3 | Discuss: a) Reading Assignments Film in Class | Mercer (thomas) Kristiva PDF | Reading Questions; |
| Nov-8 | Exam 2 Essay Due before Noon online & in class (hard copy) Discuss: a) Reading Assignments | Calvino | Reading Questions; |
| Nov-10 | No Class | Calvino Heidegger PDF | Reading Questions; |
| Nov-15 | Writing Assignment 3 Question Discuss: a) Reading Assignments Film in Class | Heidegger | Reading Questions; Film (Reserved at Library) |
| Nov-17 | Writing Assignment 3 Due Discuss: a) Reading Assignments Film in Class | Heidegger | |
| Nov-22 | Presentation Group A (6 people) Exam 3 Questions Distributed | | |
| Nov-24 | No Class. Thanksgiving Break. | | |
| Nov-29 | Presentation Group B (6 people) Exam 3 Essay Due before Noon online & in class (hard copy) | | |
| Dec-1 | Presentation Group C (6 people) | | |
| Dec-6 | Final Exam Day (Mandatory) Final Exam Essay Due Research paper Due Presentation Group D (~10 people) | | |
| Dec-8 | | | |

XI. Essay and Project Assignments

* Note: All contents in the current syllabus are subjected to change with notice

** Note: The Schedule is subject to revision