PHI 3800 Aesthetics  
Philosophy Department  
CAH, University of Central Florida  

COURSE SYLLABUS* (First Week)  
(Tentative; Last Updated August 2017)

Instructor: Lanlan Kuang, PhD  
Office: Room 242, Psychology Building  
Phone: 407-823-4395  
E-Mail: lanlan.kuang@ucf.edu  
Website: Instructor’s personal website, if applicable  
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-5:00; Please e-mail for reservation

Term: Fall 2017  
Credit Hours: 3  
Class Meeting Days: Tues, Thurs  
Class Meeting Hours: 10:30-11:45  
Class Location: TA 0110

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 postmodern, 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  
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 daily 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 4 Short Exercise (300-500 words Critics/Reflection), 3 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)

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100 points

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-86</td>
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<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
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Grading Criteria Details ☺:

Attendance:  
See Attendance Policy section.

Class Participation (5 points):
 a) 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);
 b) 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.

Reading Questions (5 points):
 a) Please print and submit 3 questions/topics based on your reading-assignments before each lecture;
 b) 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 ☺
Four “One Question” Writing Assignments (300 words Critics/Reflection), 3 points each
a) The writing assignments are designed to help you prepare for the take-home essay exams;
b) Each writing assignment should be ~300 words, no more than 500 words, in MLA format;
c) Each writing assignment is worth 3 points;
d) These writing assignments are to be submitted via Webcourses2 and be shared for online group discussion.

Three Take-home Exams (45 points = 15 points x 3 each, Essay Questions)
a) Each take-home exam will include multiple essay questions for you to choose from;
b) YOU MUST ANSWER AT LEAST THREE QUESTIONS;
c) You will have at least one week to complete each of the three take-home essay exams;
d) Each exam is worth 15 points;
e) 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.
f) You must upload an electronic copy to Webcourses before Noon on the Due Dates;
g) 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)
a) 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).
b) 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 10-15 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. Please sign-up by the end of Thursday, August 24, 2017. Detailed instructions on group work will be distributed later.
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 Webcourse2 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 21, 2017 - Friday, August 25, 2017</td>
<td>Faculty to confirm academic activity in each class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 24, 2017</td>
<td>Drop/Swap Deadline/Last Day for Full Refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 24, 2017</td>
<td>Signed Class Agreement Submission in Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 25, 2017</td>
<td>Add Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 31, 2017</td>
<td>No Class – Campus close for UCF vs. FIU football game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday September 5, 2017 &amp; Thursday September 7, 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Kuang will be in Portugal for International Cultural Heritage Conservation Conference Writing Assignment 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 10, 2017 &amp; Thursday, October 12, 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Kuang will be in China for International Silk Road Studies Symposium Writing Assignment 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday October 19, 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Kuang will be in Minnesota for Folklore Studies Conference Writing Assignment 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday October 26, 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Kuang will be in Denver for Ethnomusicology Conference Writing Assignment 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 30, 2017</td>
<td>Grade Forgiveness Deadline/Withdrawal Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 23, 2017 – Saturday, November 25, 2017</td>
<td>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 30, 2017</td>
<td>Last Class Meeting before Final Exam Day</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 2, 2017</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 7, 2017</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 7, 2017 10:00am – 12:50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 13, 2017</td>
<td>Grades due</td>
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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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Reading Assignment for Next Lecture</th>
<th>Prepare</th>
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</table>
| Aug-22   | Introduction  Class assignment  
Please join a group on Webcourse2 by the end of Aug-24 Film in Class | Introduction (Cooper) Hegel (Cooper) Boas (Morphy and Perkins PDF) | Reading Questions; Discuss Class Assignment and Reading Assignments |
| Aug-24   | Discuss: Class Assignment and Reading Assignments Film in Class | Plato (Cooper) Stecker PDF Hall PDF Aristotle (Cooper) Sorbom PDF Schoen-Nazzaro PDF | Reading Questions; |

XI. Essay and Project Assignments

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