

PHILO 258 Aesthetics:

Professor Frank Boardman – Spring 2016

Our object of study in this course will be some of the philosophical questions, puzzles and problems that surround art. We will consider the contributions of ancient, modern and contemporary philosophers, though our focus will be on working through a number of particularly thorny issues rather than providing a history of the entire subject. Some of the topics I hope to cover include:

- The nature of art
- The value of art
- Our emotional responses to art
- Meaning in and interpretation of artworks
- The ontology of art
- Taste and critical judgment
- Art, morality and censorship
- The relationship(s) between art and philosophy

We likely will not get to cover all of these, and I expect our discussions to produce other interesting questions and issues.