



**Course Title:** The Philosophy of Art  
**Course Code:** PHI 99  
**Instructor:** Frederick Dolan

### Course Summary:

This course introduces students to the philosophy of art and aesthetics by studying arguments of the great philosophers of the past as well as more recent thinkers. Topics we explore include the concept of art, representation, expression, form, aesthetic experience, interpretation and judgment, the morality and politics of art, the place of art in the good life, and the evolutionary origins of the art impulse.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

### Note About Live Attendance and Recording:

It's important to attend the live meetings, but the class sessions will be recorded and I'll accommodate students who have schedule conflicts or are in other time zones.

### Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend and/or watch at least 80% of the class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend and/or watch at least 80% of the class sessions and complete a brief paper on a topic in the philosophy of art. It could analyze or evaluate of a theory of art, use of a theory to understand an artwork or artistic style, or address a relevant topic in some other manner.

**\*Please Note:** *If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

## Tentative Weekly Outline:

Unless otherwise indicated, all readings are from Cahn & Meskin, *Aesthetics*.

Meeting #1: What is Art?

No reading assignment.

Meeting #2: Representation.

Aristotle, *Poetics*.

Richard Wollheim, "Seeing-As, Seeing-In and Pictorial Representation."

Malcolm Budd, "On Looking at a Picture."

Meeting 3: Expression.

R.B. Collingwood, *The Principles of Art*.

Meeting #4: Form.

Clive Bell, *Art*.

Nick Zangwill, "Feasible Aesthetic Formalism."

Meeting #5: Beauty.

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Beautiful and the Sublime*.

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*.

Clement Greenberg, "Avant-Garde and Kitsch."

Meaning #6: Aesthetic judgment.

David Hume, *Of the Standard of Taste*.

Meeting #7: Art and morality.

Berys Gaut, "Ethical Criticism of Art."

Plato, selections from *Republic*.

Meeting #8: Art and politics.

Herbert Marcuse, *The Aesthetic Dimension*.

John Berger, "Hals and Bankruptcy."

Roger Scruton, "The Conservative Neglect of Culture."

Meeting #9: The biology of Art.

Denis Dutton, selections from *The Art Instinct*.

Noel Carroll, "Art and Human Nature."

Meeting #10: Art and the human condition.

Schopenhauer, selections from *The World as Will and Representation*.

Nietzsche, selections from *The Birth of Tragedy* and *The Gay Science*.