Syllabus Spring 2009
FINE ARTS 252
Seminar
Thursday 2:30-3:45

Instructors: Roxanne Amico  x3619  &  Kevin Gallagher  x3439  Robin Gerchman x3533
Office Hours- after class
Other hours by appointment.

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TCC 332  TCC 334  Steinbright Dance Offices

Course description:
Since the time of Aristotle, aesthetic theory has been debated by poets and artists. What constitutes beauty raises many questions. Whether art must be beautiful to be pleasing has been dissected by theorists for centuries. Whether “art” must convey meaning or just “be” occupies volumes. Can one class which briefly surveys the field of performance and art develop in a student a knowledge base in which to “judge” artistic merit? Attitudes toward art are shaped by social background and personal experience. This course exposes students to a basic understanding several important aesthetic theories through discussion-style format and asks the student to develop a personal, but informed criteria for viewing and understanding the arts.

Objectives:
1. Teach historical context of aesthetics
2. Demonstrate the application of theory to practice
3. Share and discuss commonly held beliefs about art

Outcome#1  Students will articulate and apply through discussion and written papers basic knowledge of western theories of aesthetics and practice
Assessment:  Student will be asked to use aesthetic theories to analyze selected images, exhibits and performances both orally and in writing.

Outcome #2  Students will articulate and defend orally their own aesthetic point of view for their particular discipline
Assessment:  Students will be evaluated on a 2- page self-reflection paper be submitted by the end of the term.

Outcome #3  Students will make articulate oral contributions weekly in class, demonstrating their understanding of common characteristics of all art forms.
Assessment:  Students are graded weekly on their contributions to class.

Grading
20 %  Oral participation in class discussions, Facebook Group
10%  2-page self-reflection paper
20 %  In-class group presentation and student led discussion
50%  Response papers for 10 events as scheduled; plus in-class prompts
FNA 252     Spring 2009
Required paperback textbook:

Aesthetics by Anne Sheppard
Additional readings as assigned

CRAP (in-class participation)
Comment/Review/Analyze/Participate
For each class session, you will be asked to participate in discussion about a creative work. A printed
poster or image will be displayed. You will be asked to write post your comments most likely on the
Group Facebook page as the image is being discussed.

Facebook Account- GROUP
We will be using a group in Facebook to share and post information and images about the arts. You are
expected to participate in the GROUP.

10 Response Paper Assignments:
Submit in class (usually the next day) following the event, performance or exhibit a one page, typed
response paper. The paper should be typed and in a two column format. In one column, you will
close on positive and successful aspects of the event or performance. In the other column, you will
close on criticisms and issues raised for the performance. You should focus on the art form, choices
made by the performers or artists, effectiveness of those choices supported by an approach to thinking
about what makes the work aesthetically valid, pleasing, important, or effective. You are required to write
response papers for the 10 events on the schedule. Three copies of the paper are to be submitted in class.
No electronic copies will be accepted.

In-class free writing:
Using the weekly prompt, write a response paragraph. For images and performances viewed in class,
write a one paragraph response to what you are viewing. Be prepared to share some of those thoughts
with the class. You must say whether you agree or disagree with the prompt.

Student Group Presentations: in groups of 5 as assigned, present a work of art, generally considered
avant-garde and explain what identifies the work as being “ahead of the crowd.” Give the historical
context of the work and identify the enduring qualities the work, if any. The group will also present a
prompt which relates to their chosen work. Presentations are approx. 15 minutes.

Events:
3 dance, 3 theatre, 3 music, 3 art

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 February 4</td>
<td>Master Choreographers (final dress)</td>
<td>Muhlenberg College</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 February 25</td>
<td>Leader of the Pack (final dress)</td>
<td>CCC</td>
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<td>3 March 2</td>
<td>For the Love of Food</td>
<td>CCC Art Gallery</td>
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<td>4 March 19</td>
<td>Juried Show</td>
<td>Allentown Art Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 March 25</td>
<td>Student Dance Works (dress)</td>
<td>CCC</td>
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<td>6 April 1</td>
<td>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</td>
<td>Lehigh</td>
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<td>7 April 4</td>
<td>Senior Dance Projects</td>
<td>CCC</td>
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<td>8 April 22</td>
<td>Spring Dances (final dress)</td>
<td>CCC</td>
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<td>9 April 29</td>
<td>Spark’s Ensemble Project</td>
<td>CCC- Little Theatre</td>
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<td>10 TBA</td>
<td>Your choice of an additional event</td>
<td>Off-campus</td>
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Honor Code: You are required to abide by the Cedar Crest Honor Code, the Classroom Protocol Statement and the rules governing plagiarism. This information can be found in the Student Handbook and the College catalog.

Documentation of Disabilities: Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center. See the Student Handbook for complete information.

Weekly Schedule for Fine Arts Seminar – Fine Arts 252  Spring 2009

Generally, the weekly format includes a discussion of the event or performance previously seen. Readings will be discussed on the day assigned.

Week 1    Jan. 22    Introduction to aesthetic theories of art; What is aesthetics? Video Why Man Creates; Chapter 1 in Aesthetics

Week 2    Jan. 29    Read Chapter 2; PPT Imitation in Aesthetics
                     Prompt: Ezra Pound

Week 3    Feb 5    Read Chapter 3 PPT Expression in Aesthetics
                     Prompt: Pablo Picasso
                     Discuss Master Choreographers at Muhlenberg (Feb 4)

Week 4    Feb. 12    Read Chapter 4 PPT Form in Aesthetics
                     Prompt: Magdalena Abakanowicz

Week 5    Feb. 19    The use of symbols in art; Read “The Principles of Creation in Art”
                     Film: Night Journey
                     Prompt: Carl Jung

Week 6    Feb. 26    What is avant-garde?; Read “The Art of Having a Lofty Perspective”
                     Prompt: Rita Mae Brown
                     See Leader of the Pack at CCC (Feb 25)

Week 7    Mar 5    CCC Art Gallery; Read” The Art of Creativity”
                     Prompt: William S. Burroughs
                     Attend Artist’s talk March 2 (6-6:45)

Spring Break

Week 8    Mar. 19    Dance
                     Prompt: Magdalena Abakanowicz
                     See Allentown Art Museum exhibit Juried show LV Artists

Week 9    Mar. 26    Student led presentation- Group 1
                     Prompt: Benjamin Constant
                     Student Dance Works at CCC (Mar 25)
Week 10  
Apr. 2  Student led presentation – Group 2  
Prompt: Lester Bangs (American writer)  
See *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at Lehigh - April 1

Week 11  
Apr. 9  Student led presentation- Group 3  
Prompt: Rollo May (psychologist)  
Senior Dance Works  (April 4)

Week 12  
Apr. 16  Student led presentation- Group 4  
Prompt: Theodor Adorno

Week 13  
Apr. 23  Student led presentation Group 5  
Prompt: Joseph Campbell  
See *Spring Dance* at CCC (April 22 dress)

Week 14  
Apr. 30  Prompt: Picasso  
Sparks Ensemble Presentation (April 29- dress rehearsal)

**Presentation GROUPS**

Groups are a team from the beginning of the term. Each week that we have a discussion of an attended event, you will meet with your group for 15 minutes at the beginning of class to discuss the event. Your group will be asked before attending the event to pay particular attention to one aspect of the performance and then comment on that in class. The dates attached to your group are for the major group presentation.

**Group 1 March 26**  
Megan Ammons  
Desiree Cosgrove  
Alexandra Feldman  
Melissa Keiser  
Carrie Moore

**Group 2 April 2**  
Chealsea Anagnoson  
Carole Ann Danner  
Laura Goldman  
Cinthia Marino  
Meegan Schuckers

**Group 3 April 9**  
Brittany Ankiewitz  
Kylie Dixon  
Alicia Grossbauer  
Natalie McDowell  
Yumiko Sugawara

**Group 4 April 16**  
Kat Cancelino  
Alex Giordano  
Jennifer Hill  
Mariah McMullen  
Kaitlin Swisher

**Group 5 April 23**  
Mandy Cloud  
Leigh Anne Ehnot  
Molly McPherson  
Danielle Vallies  
Sarah Ives  
Kathleen Walsh

You will always be writing and commenting on the following aspects of each event:

1. Execution/technique of performers/skill
2. Social or political implications/function/purpose
3. Emotional impact/visceral responses
4. Visual elements- scenery/costumes/lighting-design/execution
5. Aesthetic environment/performance space/utilization of public venue/other amenities