

# Aesthetics: Perception, Subjectivity, Embodiment

Fall 2009

## Final Essay

### Description of the Assignment

You have two general options to choose from—one applied and the other theoretical.

**Option 1:** Write a **critical** essay on a particular "work of art" (broadly construed). Be sure that your discussion makes use of **relevant** material covered in this course. It is up to you to determine what is relevant to the work you're writing about and what is not. In general, you'll be drawing from the concepts and propositions found in the writings of Kant, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, or Deleuze. Your analysis should use only these four philosophers, but in such a way so that they offer differing perspectives on the work in question. So, for example, if you write from a Deleuzian perspective, you should consider contrary and opposing claims likely to be raised by Kant, or Heidegger, or both. In other words, in defending the view you take with respect to the work of art, you should include objections likely to be raised by the others. **Be sure to include an images or images of the work you're writing about.**

**Option 2:** Write a **critical** essay comparing and contrasting the philosophical views of art defended by two of the philosophers on the syllabus. Given the comprehensive and complex nature of each one of the thinkers we've covered this semester, you should not attempt to account for their overall theories of art. Rather, find some particular and interesting point or points of **similarity** and **difference** between them and explore these in your essay.

Before starting your essay, be sure that you have a reasonably good understanding of the texts and works you plan to write about. Keep in mind that, while I want you to follow your interests, make this assignment relevant to your own work and concerns, and enjoy it, this is—for most of you—also an academic exercise. You have to demonstrate how much you're learned this semester and give me the evidence I need to give you an "A" on the assignment. So be cautious and don't assume that the reader knows much at all about your subject matter. Assume your reader is a relatively intelligent friend who is intellectually curious but has little expertise in philosophy and art.

### Requirements

You must choose **one** of the options listed above. Your essay should be approximately **7-8 pages** in length.

**All papers are due in my email inbox by Monday, 21 Dec 09, 10:00 AM.**

Please submit the paper to me by email as an MS Word **attachment**.

All papers must be run through a spell-checker. You will be evaluated on the form and content of your papers, so pay close attention to both appearance and grammar.

All papers must be **double-spaced** with **one-inch margins** and in **12-point** type. If you need additional instructions or guidelines, see me.

For additional guidelines on writing critical essays, see the relevant handout on the "Resources" section of my website:

**<http://homepage.newschool.edu/~quigleyt>**

### **Statement on Academic Honesty**

It is expected that all work submitted for a grade in this course reflects the work of the student submitting it. Students are **encouraged** to discuss their work with others (inside and outside of class), and to exchange drafts of papers with one another for comments and criticisms. But keep in mind that if you borrow an idea from someone else, you must **cite the source**, even if it is based on a conversation or correspondence.

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a **failing** grade for the **course**.

Anyone who does not fully understand the standards of academic honesty should speak to me in advance of submitting coursework.