

*Philosophy of Art*

*Philosophy 330*

*Spring 2011*

*Term Paper Essay: Due Monday, May 9*

*Write a 6-10 page (typewritten, double-spaced) essay.*

Examine one of the theories of modern art covered in the course. This would include Nietzsche and everything else covered since the mid-term exam. Explain how the theory develops out of or in reaction against traditional theories of art and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theory.

Some of the issues that could be addressed in developing the essay:

Does the theory draw our attention to something important about art that other theories have missed? Does it explain any better than other theories the development of art since the beginning of modern art, or does it fail to account for something important in the development of art?

What is a work of art? How does one distinguish between what is art and what is not art? Is it necessary to have a definition of the essence of art?

Is there a particular way of viewing a work of art, an aesthetic experience?

What makes one an artist? What is the nature of artistic creativity? What does the artist do in making a work of art?

What is art for? What is the value of art? Is art merely for aesthetic appreciation or does it have some other importance for the individual and society?

What is the relationship between art and society? Is art beneficial and thus of great value to society, or is art dangerous to society and thus subject to censorship?

Are critical judgments of art possible or is the appreciation of art merely a private affair?

What is the relationship between art and truth?

What is the relationship between philosophy and art?

How might the theory be applied to one of the individual arts: literature, film, photography, painting, sculpture, architecture, music, dance, or theater?

How might the theory be applied to understanding a particular work of art?