

# ST BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## 2016-2017 PHILOSOPHY OF ART COURSE PLAN

**Semester: I**

**Title of Course: Philosophy of Art**

**Course Code:**

**ECTS: 3**

**Teaching Hours Per Week: 2**

**Lecturer: G. Marera MA (UZ)**

**Lecturer Room: Classroom II**

**Consultation Times: 1500-1700hrs**

### **Course Description:**

The course introduces students to the philosophy of art and aesthetics. In this course we shall examine the nature of art, various ways of approaching the study of art, and give a survey of the history of art. We shall discuss various theories of art and the roles of art, and examine relations between art and beauty, morality and religion.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the course are:

- To introduce students to the philosophy of art and aesthetics
- To explore the value and function of art in human life.
- To present an overview of the history of philosophy and aesthetics to the students
- To introduce to students the basic questions in the philosophy of art and aesthetics

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Distinguish between art and aesthetics.
- Appreciate works of art.
- Appreciate the value and function of art in their lives.
- Explain and criticize the different theories of art.
- Be able to distinguish between what is art and what is not in their experiences.

## **Summary of Content:**

The content of this course shall be briefly as follows:

- Definition issues in the Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics
- Types and Mediums of Art
- Value and Function of Art
- History of Philosophy of Art
- Theories of Art
- Intention and Interpretation in Art

## **Teaching Methodology:**

- Lecturing
- Class discussions
- Group discussions and Presentations

## **Assessment Methods:**

Assessment shall be in the following ways:

There will be an assignment which will cover 40% of the final mark and a final examination which will cover 60% of the final mark.

## **Assignment Question:**

Discuss the Marxist theory of art. Does Marxism provide an alternative for the traditional theories of art? What are the strengths and the weaknesses of Marxism?

## Course Calendar and Distribution of Content

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Themes and Expectations</b>
1	08-12 January	Introduction
2	15-19 January	Introduction
3	22-26 January	Art and Definition
4	29 Jan - 02 Feb	Types and Media of Art
5	05-09 February	Value and Function of Art
6	12-16 February	History of Philosophy of Art
7	19-23 February	Intention and Interpretation
8	26 Feb – 02 Mar	Intention and Interpretation (Submission of Assignment)
9	05 – 09 March	Theories of Art
10	13 – 16 March	Theories of Art
11	19 -23 March	Theories of Art
12	26 - 28 March	Theories of Art
13	09-13 April	Theories of Art
14	16 - 20 April	Theories of Art
15	23-27 April	Evaluation
16	03-15 May	Final Examinations

# Content in Detail

## 1. Introduction

### *What is philosophy?*

- \* Etymological Definition
- \* General/Common Understanding
- \* Technical/Professional/Academic Understanding

### *What is Art and Aesthetics?*

- Etymology of Art
- Etymology of Aesthetics

### *What is philosophy of Art?*

- Difference with art criticism
- Difference with history of art
- Efficient causality – Artist, critic, historian, consumer, philosopher.

## 2. Types and Mediums of Art

Fine and Useful Art

Classification of Arts According to Media

## 3. Value and Function of Art

- \* Religious Functions
- \* Political Functions
- \* Economic Functions
- \* Therapeutic Functions
- \* Educational Functions
- \* Art and Identity

## 4. History of Philosophy of Art

- \* Ancient Period
- \* Medieval Period
- \* Renaissance
- \* Modern Period
- \* Contemporary Period

## 5. Intention and Interpretation in Art

- \* Artist's Intention
- \* Inspiration
- \* Creativity and Originality
- \* Attitudes of the Audience
- \* Critics and Criticism

## 6. Theories of Art

### *Traditional Theories*

- Art as Imitation
- Art as Expression
- Art As Form

### *Other Theories*

- Pragmatic Theories of Art
  - Hedonistic Theories of Art
  - Art as means to Truth and Knowledge
  - Art as means to Moral Improvement

## **Recommended Texts**

ALDRICH, V. C., *Philosophy of Art*, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall, 1963.

DUCASSE, C. J., *The Philosophy of Art*, Toronto and London, Dover Publications Inc., 1966.

KORSMEYER, C. ed., *Aesthetics: The Big Questions*, Malden and Oxford, Blackwell Publishers.

NEIL, A. and RIDLEY A., *The Philosophy of Art: Readings Ancient and Modern*, McGraw-Hill, Inc, New York, 1995.

TOWNSHED, D., *An Introduction to Aesthetics*, Malden and Oxford, Blackwell Publishers, 1997.

**Note: Alternative Readings will be given every week.**