



# Philosophy 347: Aesthetics, Nietzsche - Heidegger - Deleuze

Fall Semester 2012, Michigan State  
University

Prof. Christian Lotz

Tentative Schedule (last **UPDATE**: October 25, 2012)

NUMBER	DATE	TOPIC	READING	MULTIMEDIA	THESIS PAPER	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>						
1	Aug 30	Introduction				
2	Sep 4	Aesthetics vs. Philosophy of Art	copy in class			
<b>MUSIC - NIETZSCHE WITH MAHLER</b>						
3	Sep 6	Dionysian vs. Apollinian	Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy, Preface+§§1-6		Moyland, Rudman	
4	Sep 11	Dionysian vs. Apollinian	Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy, Preface+§§1-6			
5	Sep 13	Tragedy	Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy, §§7-18		Sullivan, Doxie	
6	Sep 18	Music	Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy, §§19-24;		Will, Burns	check Strauss, <a href="#">Also sprach Zarathustra</a>
7	Sep 20	Zarathustra, Body and Reason	Nietzsche, Nietzsche, Zarathustra, pp. 1-33		Langley, Kerr	check <a href="#">documentary on Mahler's Third Symphony</a>
8	Sep 25	Aesthetical Life	Nietzsche, Nietzsche, Zarathustra, pp.53-61; pp. 79-90		Fisher, Najor	check <a href="#">Mahler. Song of Farewell</a> <b>reaction paper (Mahler)</b>
9	Sep 27	Affirmation of the Earth	Nietzsche, Nietzsche, Zarathustra, pp.149-189; pp. 240-264		Shepard, Schoonmaker	
10	Oct 2	Mahler	Mahler, Song of the Earth, copy per email	Film, Mahler, Autopsy of a Genius		<b>reaction paper due</b>
11	Oct 4	Mahler's Song	Mahler, Song of the Earth, additional material, copy per			

12	Oct 9	of the Earth Mahler and Nietzsche	email Mahler, Song of the Earth, additional material, copy per email	Film, Bernstein on Mahler's Song of the Earth	
<b>ARCHITECTURE - HEIDEGGER WITH FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT</b>					
13	Oct 11	no class	no class		
14	Oct 16	Heidegger's critique of Nietzsche	Heidegger, Nietzsche I, copy per email		Warn, Fellin
15	Oct 18	Art and Thing	Heidegger, The Origin of the Work of Art, pp.143-165		Riedel, Fallone
16	Oct 23	Art and Truth	Heidegger, The Origin of the Work of Art, pp.143-165		Milad, Frankfort
17	Oct 25	Art and Truth	Heidegger, The Origin of the Work of Art, pp.165-182		Moreno, Noetzel
18	Oct 30	Ontology of Art	Heidegger, The Origin of the Work of Art, pp.165-182		Bingaman, Ferguson
19	Nov 1	no class	no class		
20	Nov 6	Building	Heidegger, Building, Dwelling, Thinking		Coplai, Zhang, Ogle
21	Nov 8	Building	Heidegger, Building, Dwelling, Thinking		Cronkhite, Layson
22	Nov 13	FLW's Fallingwater	Information, Fallingwater (copy per email)	Film, Fallingwater	reaction paper
23	Nov 15	FLW's Fallingwater	Levine, The Temporal Dimension of Fallingwater (copy per email)		Nagy, Matsamakis
<b>PAINTING - DELEUZE WITH BACON</b>					
24	Nov 20	Francis Bacon	Deleuze, Francis Bacon, pp. 1-33	Film, Bacon	reaction paper due
25	Nov 22	no class	no class		
26	Nov 27	Francis Bacon	Deleuze, Francis Bacon, pp. 34-64	Film, Bacon Southbank Interview	
27	Nov 29	Francis Bacon	Deleuze, Francis Bacon, pp. 65-99	Film, Bacon and Photography	Final essay assignment passed out in class
28	Dec 4	Painting and Sensation	Deleuze, Francis Bacon, pp. 1-33		Kerwin, Kim
30	Dec 6	Painting and the Diagram	Deleuze, Francis Bacon, pp. 34-64		Naeyaert
	Dec [day of final exam]				Final essay due

**Class Meetings:**

Days: TTH  
Time: 12:40 PM - 2:00 PM  
Place: 104 Berkey

**Office:**

Phone: 517.355.4490 [dept.]  
Place: 513 S. Kedzie Hall  
Hours: see homepage

**Other Contact:**

E-mail: [lotz@msu.edu](mailto:lotz@msu.edu)  
Home Phone: please ask  
Webpage: <http://christianlotz.wordpress.com>

## Box

You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (and in front of my office)

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**Teaching Assistant:** no teaching assistants

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## Course Description

Rather than focusing on contemporary questions in aesthetics we will deal and discuss major positions within the history of aesthetics, namely, Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*, Heidegger's *The Origin of the Work of Art*, and Deleuze's *Logic of Sensation*, all of which still determine major ways of thinking about aesthetics and art. As such, this class does not focus on abstract meta-questions in aesthetics, such as "what is an image?," "what is representation," or "what is expression?," though all of the aforementioned questions will come up during our discussion of Nietzsche, Heidegger and Deleuze. Rather, we will look at their ways of thinking in relation to selected examples in art: Francis Bacon in connection with Deleuze (painting), Gustav Mahler in connection with Nietzsche (music), and Frank Lloyd Wright in connection with Heidegger (architecture). The latter topics will be accompanied by documentary films on Mahler, Bacon, and Wright.

## Note

This course contains difficult material and requires mature students. If you are not willing to study dense written material, listen to unusual lectures, and discuss ideas in an organized fashion, then you should not take this class.

## Course Goals

This class should students introduce to

- Nietzsche's aesthetics
- Heidegger's aesthetics
- Deleuze's aesthetics
- how to connect philosophical reflection on art with art
- the conflict between aesthetics based on subjectivity and aesthetics based on an ontology of art
- art and truth

## Note

Students should be aware of the fact that this course is based on extremely difficult (and for most of you awkward) texts. Accordingly, this class requires self-responsible learners and an intense confrontation with the primary text. Accordingly, if you are not excited about the prospect of a daily confrontation with abstract and historical reflections, then you should not take this class. This class is not based on a set of fixed knowledge and, as such, is not based on a behavioral idea of education; rather, we will try to learn together and critically examine the material.

## Required Texts (Bookstore)

- Heidegger, *Basic Writings*
- Nietzsche, *Birth of Tragedy*
- Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*
- Deleuze, *Logic of Sensation*

## Reading assignments and preparation

The reading assignment per session is limited; however, this means that I expect you to come to class having prepared the texts carefully and thoroughly and that you are able to talk meaningfully about the text, raise questions of your own and provide answers when called upon. I will take the liberty to call on students randomly. An approximate preparation time for each class is a minimum of five hours. The reading for the next session, if not clear from the course schedule (below), will be announced at the end of the previous class. "Preparing for class" implies underlining and making excerpts from the text assigned; looking up unfamiliar vocabulary and writing them into a note book (I encourage you to keep a vocabulary booklet for all of your classes). Just reading the text won't be sufficient. You have to study the material. Some vocabulary might not be sufficiently explained in a regular dictionary (this goes especially for philosophical terms), so it is necessary to consult additional sources (e.g., the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy — online (see remark below) — is an excellent source of information, and the MSU Library Website is a great resource for nearly all questions in this regard).

## Organization

The course will be organized such that, ideally, each class period will include [i] "interactive" lecture, [ii] discussion time or [iii]

response time. Students will be asked to intensively prepare a certain text or part of a text for the next class period. Certain class sections will be devoted to listening to Wagner's music and will be accompanied by brief assignments

### Course Requirements

- Daily reading and studying (around 5 pages)
- 2 shorter reaction papers
- 1 thesis paper (one page summary of claims)
- 1 final paper
- participation
- unannounced reading quizzes and unannounced group assignments

### Note

The class and my lectures are solely based on the texts selected for class and require a thorough study and preparation of the material. I will primarily lecture on the readings, which will help you to more fully understand the texts. Therefore it is not sufficient for students to come to class without having prepared the texts. And indeed, in the exams you have to demonstrate whether you have appropriately prepared the readings selected for each lecture.

### Reading Quizzes

There will be - from time to time - unannounced reading quizzes and group assignments. Students who do not attend class (and have no medical documentation) will lose all points. Reading quizzes and group assignments cannot be made up. I will waive this requirement if I have the impression that students come prepared to class.

### Make-Up Assignments

Students who need to miss the exam(s) and/or the unannounced quizzes/assignments for excusable reasons must inform me ahead of time, and will be permitted to make up the assignment. I will only accept official doctor notes (no faxes, no emails) or letters from other professors.

### Attendance

To get a good grade in this class, regular attendance is required. I will not call roll. Hence, it is up to you to come to class or not. However, if you do not come to class on a regular basis and participate in the class discussion, it is impossible for you to achieve a good grade in this class; so coming to class is your responsibility and your call. If you choose to attend class, please come on time, turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that interfere with your (and others') concentration, have the reading prepared and be ready to participate. If you are not prepared, do not bother showing up. It is a sign of disrespect to your peers and the instructor to attend class unprepared. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student and to catch up on reading. Nevertheless, please be aware that you should not make me responsible for a failure that results out of your decision. You should be aware that chances to master this class are minimal, if you do not show up for class or if you do not prepare the readings (=studying).

### Reading Quizzes and Group Assignments

There will be - from time to time - *unannounced* reading quizzes and group assignments. Students who do not attend class (and have no medical documentation) lose all points. Reading quizzes and group assignments cannot be made up. I will waive this requirement if I have the impression that students come prepared to class.

### Thesis Paper (brief overview of assigned reading)

Each student has to prepare once a thesis paper for class. The thesis paper should contain [a] a list of main points and claims, [b] concepts that are unclear, [c] intelligent questions about the readings. Students who prepare the thesis paper need to send their responses by 8am per email on the due date to me, bring copies for everyone to class and be prepared to briefly present their paper. The thesis paper is limited to one page and you must use the prepared document (download below). Note: you are not allowed to cite common internet resources, such as Wikipedia. Instead, work with the following online resources (or other resources in the library): [Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy](#) - [Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) - [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) - [Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy](#) (e-book) - [The Oxford Companion to Philosophy](#)

[Click here to download thesis paper](#)

### Reaction Paper

Each student has to write two 2-page (no more than 600 words) reaction papers in reaction to one of the readings and/or films. The reaction paper should contain a systematic thesis about a selected aspect of the material (will be specified in class).

### Final Paper

In order to expand and improve your understanding of the material, you will turn in one final research and academic style paper, in which you analyze a specific topic (6 pages, double spaced, no more than 1800 words). Assignments will be passed out in class.

### **Class Response Sheets**

Every student is asked to submit up to 5 class response sheets during the semester.

[Click here to download the class response sheet](#)

(Word document, I will only accept answers that are given on this form) The response sheets have to be submitted at the end of a class session. I do not accept late turn ins.

### **Course Evaluation**

You will be evaluated on the basis of:

1 final paper	35 points
2 reaction papers	20 points
unannounced reading quizzes and group assignments	15 points
1 thesis paper (handout)	5 points
participation	10 points
5 response sheets	15 points
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	100 points

### **Grading:**

4.0 (=A)	100 - 93
3.5	92 - 87
3 (=B)	86 - 82
2.5	81 - 77
2 (=C)	76 - 72
1.5	71 - 65
1.0 (=D)	64 - 60
0.0	< 60

### **GENERIC SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)**

#### **Laptop/Cell Phone Policy**

You are not permitted to use laptops and cell phones in class. Please do not text under the table. Cell phones should be removed from tables. Failure to follow this policy will lead to unannounced assignments in class or loss of points (at the digression of the instructor).

#### **Class Attendance**

As mentioned above, I do not employ in my classes a class attendance policy. Having said this, you should be aware that class attendance is very important. When engaging in a philosophical and humanistic dialogue it is necessary to be an active and present participant in the ongoing discussion. If you miss class please do not email me asking if you missed anything important. Every class is important. You should get a study buddy for the class; a student in class who will inform you of what you missed. If you miss a class you can come to my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the material, providing you have read the material and you simply want to see if your understanding of the material is on target. Time in office hours will not be used to repeat the class

lectures.

## Grading Criteria

Check out [this page for grading criteria, example of assignments, etc.](#)

## Helpful information about oral presentations, paper writing and plagiarism

[Click here to find help on your presentations and your writing](#)

## Online Research Sources

Unfortunately, some people think that the internet as such is a reliable source of information. If you decide to use online sources for additional information or your paper then do not just use one of the common internet search engines, such as Google; rather, use reliable academic sources, such as Britannica Online, or the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#). The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) isn't very good, but still acceptable. Check out MSU's [library resources](#)! And, as with other sources, you must cite any online sources to which you refer in your essay.

## Course Evaluation:

Michigan State University takes seriously the opinion of students in the evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction, and has implemented the SIRS (Student Instructional Rating System) process to gather student feedback. This course utilizes the "online SIRS" system, and you will receive an e-mail sometime during the last two weeks of class asking you to fill out the SIRS webform at your convenience. This course is enrolled in the "SIRS Pilot" project and, as a reminder to be sure to fill out the SIRS evaluation form, the final grade for this course will not be accessible on STUINFO during the week following the submission of grades for this course unless the SIRS online form has been filled out. You have the option on the online SIRS form to decline to participate in the evaluation of the course – we hope, however, that you will be willing to give us your frank and constructive feedback so that we may instruct students even better in the future.

## Writing Center Information

MSU's writing center offers excellent help on all matters regarding writing and learning. Check the website at <http://writing.msu.edu> for an overview and hours. For more information, please call 517.432.3610 or send an e-mail to [writing@msu.edu](mailto:writing@msu.edu).

## Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Plagiarism)

The following statement of University policy addresses principles and procedures to be used in instances of academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records, herein after referred to as academic misconduct. [See General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades.]: [download document](#) (pdf)

## Academic Honesty

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html>)

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY)

## Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

## Note on Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

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