COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL-905
Aesthetics
1 Semester Hour

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

As an interdisciplinary introduction to aesthetics, this course will explore the ways in which the arts create and communicate meaning, their importance in today's society, and their contribution to our understanding of the world. Issues to be covered include the nature and scope of artistic expression, style, taste, and judgement. Each section of the course will focus on one of the following areas which will be experienced and analyzed: literary art, performing art or visual art.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe what makes something a work of art.
2. Compare and contrast popular entertainment and art.
3. Compare and contrast pornography and art.
4. Discuss the concept of art, the individual and the community.
5. Explain the role of artistic criticism.
6. Analyze the creative process and the concept of imagination.
7. Critically examine aesthetic problems in the expression of feelings and thought.
8. Discuss the importance of values, style, perception and personal taste in the development of aesthetic judgement.

Major Topics

I. The Arts and Perception
   - A. The Nature of the Arts
   - B. Living with the Arts
   - C. Aesthetic Perception and Response
   - D. Style in the Arts

II. The Human Artistic Process
   - A. The Critic and Criticism
   - B. The Artist
   - C. The Creative Process and Human Expression

III. Responsibility and the Arts
   - A. The Power of Art
   - B. Politics and the Arts
   - C. Respect for Ideas and Expression

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Reflective or analytic papers based on the artistic genre being studied and active student participation in class discussion.

Other Course Information

This course is a Humanities elective, a Fine Arts elective, and an Arts and Sciences elective.