

Aesthetics Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Broad topic areas are listed below. As you might expect, areas overlap and readings often fit in more than one category. Many of the readings listed below are excerpts contained within anthologies. The asterisk which occurs after some works denotes the presence of the work in the anthology currently being used in Phil 475: *Art and Its Significance*, Ed. Stephen Ross (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994). See Prof. Vernallis if you wish to peruse this text.

The Nature of Art (including definitions of art)

Bell: *Art* (selections)*

Danto: "The Artworld"*

Dickie: "What is Art?: An Institutional Analysis"*

Heidegger: *The Origin of the Work of Art**

Kant: Critique of Judgment: Introduction III, IV; First Book (Analytic of the Beautiful) First Moment, Second Moment, Third Moment; Second Book (Analytic of the Sublime)*

Kristeller: "The Modern System of the Arts"

Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy*

Plato: *Republic* II, III, X

Tostoy: *What is Art?* (selections)*

Art and Interpretation

Barth: "Death of the Author"

Baxandall: *Patterns of Intention* (Introduction)

Beardsley and Wimsatt: "The Intentional Fallacy"

Eliot: "Interpretation and the Individual Talent"

Gadamer: "Aesthetics and Hermeneutics"

Hirsch: "Validity in Interpretation"

Tolstoy: *What is Art?*

Wollheim: "Art, Interpretation, and Perception," *Painting as an Art*

The Aesthetic Attitude and Aesthetic Judgment

Bullough: "'Psychical Distance' as a Factor in Art and as an Aesthetic Principle"*

Dickie: "The Myth of the Aesthetic Attitude"

Hume: "Of the Standard of Taste"*

Kant: (see above)

Aesthetics and Ethics

Cohen: "On Consistency in One's Personal Aesthetics"

Hume: (see above)

Murdoch: "The Sovereignty of Good over Other Concepts"

Plato: (see above)

Railton: "Aesthetic Value, Moral Value, and the Ambitions of Naturalism"

Nehamas: *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*

Politics, Culture, Art (including Modernism and Postmodernism)

note: You don't need to know a majority of these works.

Baudrillard: "The Hyper-realism of Simulation." (Excerpt in *Art and Theory: 1900-1990*)

Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technical Reproducibility"*

Berger: *Ways of Seeing*

Clifford: "On Collecting Art and Culture"*

Devereaux: "Oppressive Texts, Resisting Readers, and the Gendered Spectator: The New Aesthetics"

Foucault: "What is an Author?"

Gootner-Abendroth: "Nine Principles of a Matriarchal Aesthetic"*

Aesthetics Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Greenberg: "Avant-Garde and Kitsch"

Hein: "The Role of Feminist Aesthetics in Feminist Theory"

Jameson: "Postmodernism: or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism"

Lyotard: "What is Postmodernism?"*

Minh-ha: "Woman, Native, Other"*

Mulvey: "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"

Schier, Flint: "Painting after Art? Comments on Wollheim" (*Art and Theory: 1900-1990*)

Note: If you have a background in a particular art form such as music, literature, film, painting, or photography, please speak to Prof. Vernallis. Also speak to Prof. Vernallis if you have studied more specialized topics such as expression, depiction, or style. Remember that topics from recent graduate seminars in aesthetics will occur on the exam.