

Philosophy of Art (PHIL 202)**Credit Hours:** 4**Course Pre-Requisites:** None**Instructor Name:** Nosheen Shahid**Schedule:** Monday to Friday (2.00 PM – 4.50 PM)**Course Description**

The basic idea behind this course is to provide students with some background knowledge about theory of aesthetics in an age where we find ourselves inundated with a great variety of art forms (including cinema, theatre, novella, poetry, painting, sculpture and architecture, which are further divided into multiple genres). This makes the question of “what is art?”—which has long been the central concern of the philosophy of art—even more relevant today. To answer this question requires us to distinguish art from what is not art, which in turn leads to several other questions about whether we can reduce judgments of art solely to matters of taste or personal opinion, or if there has to be an objective standard upon which we must base our evaluative judgments. In other words, it raises the question of whether beauty lies in the eye of the beholder or: whether it has to have an objective quality. Another question that philosophers of art have long concerned themselves with is the question of purpose and value of art. Does the purpose of art lie merely in giving pleasure in the contemplation of beautiful objects? Are works of art supposed to reflect and transform society’s ills? In other words, what is the meaning of art? It is an introductory level course and students who are interested in theories of art but have no background knowledge in the field are encouraged to take it. It starts with the discussion of the significance and role of art in classical Greece in order to provide a context for our later discussions. Modern theory of aesthetics however remains the central focus here. It introduces students to some of the famous works in philosophy of art. The expectation is that, as the discussion about art proceeds, students will be able to develop sophisticated opinions about the form and meaning of art and beauty.

