Philosophy and the Arts
Philosophy 320, Fall 2005
Instructor: Jeffrey A. Bell, Ph.D.
Time: 12:00-12:50 MWF in Fayard 237
Office Hours: 9-12 MWF, or by appointment.
Office: Fayard 355C (ext. 3918)
email: jbell@selu.edu
Course website. At my website, (www.selu.edu/Academics/Faculty/jbell click the courses link and then the link to this course.

Required Reading:
Fisher, Reflecting on Art

Course Objectives
The purpose of this course is to survey the general issues and problems of in the philosophy of art, or aesthetics. What is beautiful? What is art? Is art important for society and if so, why? These questions, and others, will be addressed in classroom discussions that will focus upon the readings.

Course Requirements
There will be one midterm exam (20%), a final (30%), and two written assignments (25% each). The first written assignment is to be 4 pages long (1000 words, no less) on a topic that I will hand out in class. Topics will be handed out one or two weeks before they are due. The second written assignment (1500 words) is to be on a topic or your choosing that is relevant to the course. You also have the option of writing one 2500 word paper on a topic of your choosing (topics must be pre-approved). For the second paper, whether it is 1500 or 2500 words, must meet the general paper requirements as found at the course website. The two exams will have a section of short answers and essay questions. I will hand out a study sheet one week prior to each exam.

Attendance Requirements
Class participation is an integral part of the course. Failure to attend class regularly will harm your final grade. Note: the readings will be supplemented with lectures, and material from these lectures will appear on the exams. Consequently, to encourage regular attendance there will be certain rules: 1) only 5 unexcused absences will be allowed. Anyone who exceeds this limit will receive an F. An absence is accepted if there is (1) personal illness, (2) illness or death of a family member, (3) legitimate participation in school activities such as sports and music, and (4) events beyond your control (e.g., car breaks down, a wreck, court appearance). You must clear these absences with me, otherwise I will mark them down as unexcused. And if you are late be sure to see that I put your name on the role to avoid an unexcused absence. Note: if any handicaps prohibit the fulfilment of these requirements, let me know.

Reading Assignments
Aug 22 Introduction
Aug 24 Ch. 1, Ineffability of Art
Aug 26 "Hurricane Katrina
Sep 14 Tolstoy’s challenge, pp. 32-50.
Sep 16 Art and morality, pp. 91-116.
Sep 19 "Hurricane Katrina
Sep 23 "Hurricane Katrina
Sep 26 Avant-garde art, pp. 119-143.
Sep 28 "Study sheets for midterm handed out.
Sep 30 Art forms, pp. 147-159.
Oct 3 Relation of art to craft, pp. 163-178.
Oct 5 Art and entertainment, pp. 179-190.
Papers due.
Oct 7 Review for midterm.
Oct 10 Midterm.
Oct 14 "Hurricane Katrina
Papers due.
Oct 24 film.
Oct 26 film and discussion.
Last day to drop.
Oct 31 "Hurricane Katrina
Nov 2 "Hurricane Katrina
Nov 4 "Hurricane Katrina pp. 280-317
Nov 7 "Hurricane Katrina
Nov 9 Expression Theory, pp. 323-350.
Nov 18 Collingwood, pp. 411-420.
Nov 21 "Hurricane Katrina
Nov 23, 25 No Class. Thanksgiving.
Nov 28 Wittgenstein, “Lectures on Aesthetics,”
handout
Nov 30 “
Dec 2 “
    Study sheet for final handed out.
Dec 5 Shusterman, “End of Aesthetic Experience”
online
Dec 7 Shusterman, “Art as Dramatization,” online
    Papers due.
Dec 9 “
    Review.
Dec 15 Final Exam: 10:15-12:15pm