

Rhodes College
Introduction to Philosophy – 17087 – PHIL 101-01
Fall 2006

Prof. Steve Faison

Class Days/Time: MWF 1-1:50

Location: Clough 102? 313?

Office Hours and Location: MW 2:30-4:30 and by appointment; Clough 402

Contact: 3577 and faisons@rhodes.edu

This course will offer an introduction to philosophy by examining the philosophy of art and the metaphysical, epistemological and moral status of the image. What does art communicate about the human relation to the world? Is art an inferior imitation or distortion of reality, or an aesthetic enrichment of our experience of the world? Can we live without art, or is art a necessary human expression? As we examine these and other stimulating questions, our discussion will explore several arguments concerning the social, political, psychological, economic and aesthetic consequences of art.

TEXT:

Plato: *The Republic*

Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*

From: *Marx's Concept of Man*

Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy/The Case of Wagner*

GRADING:

60% exams (4)

20% final paper

20% presentations, homework, participation

CLASS PRESENTATIONS: Each student is required to make a brief presentation of assigned reading to the class which will serve as the introduction to the material and discussion for that session. You are encouraged to select material that you find enlightening, appealing, intriguing, frustrating or inflammatory.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Attendance is required. Student participation in class discussion is an essential component of learning, and your grade for the class. This is especially true in philosophy courses. In this class you are cordially invited to participate in the great intellectual conversation. If you are unusually shy about speaking in class, please see me and some reasonable accommodation can be made.

ALL WORK IN THIS COURSE IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HONOR CODE.