I. DESCRIPTION
This course is a philosophical examination of the nature of the work of art and the basic aesthetic concepts. First, it should be emphasized that the course adopts a historical and global perspective, as it draws from Ancient Greek, Asian, and European philosophers. Second, the course focuses on the way philosophers of art reflect on and criticize aspects of competing theories and conceptual analyses. Third, in dealing with contemporary aesthetics, we consider philosophers from the Continental and Analytic schools. Finally, some of the philosophical texts we consider are also literary works of art and provide us with the opportunity to explore the relation between philosophical and artistic productions. Students will also have an opportunity to gauge the relevance of the philosophical reflections examined in the course in the actual production of a work of art (through a creative project).

II. TEXTS
- The rest of the material for the course is available as PDF files on iLearn.

III. REQUIREMENTS
There will be two in class tests, and each will count for 45% of the final grade. There will also be an optional creative assignment to improve your midterm grade. I will discuss that in class after the midterm. In addition, regular, thoughtful and active participation in class discussion can enhance your final grade by one gradation. For example, a “B-” might become a “B” if you have contributed productively to the class. A final word about attendance, which is required and counts for 10% of the grade. This course is structured in such a way that the later portions of the course depend heavily on the earlier portions. Not unlike a course in language or mathematics, missing the earlier class sessions come at great cost to your work in the rest of the semester. If you know that you will have to miss more than one class sessions, it is recommended that you not take the course this semester.
IV. POLICIES

Missed or Late Work
Assignments turned in late will be docked 1/3 a letter grade per day (e.g. a B+ would become a B).

Electronic Communication
The best way to get in touch with me is via email (azad@sfsu.edu). Feel free to email me at any point during the semester if you have any questions or concerns. I do not answer emails in the evening, but you can expect to receive a response within a day from my receiving your email.

Laptops and Cellphones
Laptops are permitted in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. Please do not visit any websites (especially social media), as it distracts other students and disrupts the learning environment of the class. Please do not text or browse the Internet on your cellphone during class. If you feel that you must use your cellphone, please leave the classroom and do so outside.

Plagiarism
Students are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and for not committing it in any of their submitted work. For more details see: http://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College.

Religious Holidays
Students who must be absent from class in order to observe religious a holiday must inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. Students who meet these conditions will not be penalized for their absence, and will be able to make up the work missed.

The Learning Assistance Center
The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) provides free, on-campus writing tutoring for SF State students. It offers both one-time and ongoing tutoring sessions, with some same day appointments available. The LAC is open Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm and Friday from 9am-12pm. For more information and to schedule an appointment, see http://www.sfsu.edu/~lac/index.html.

Disability Accommodation
Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC: http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is in the Student Services Building, Rm. 110. They can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

Student Disclosure of Sexual Violence
SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc; Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; http://psyservs.sfsu.edu. For more information on your rights and available resources, consult http://titleix.sfsu.edu.

V. SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to revision. Major changes will be discussed with the students. The items with asterisk are in the textbook. The rest are on iLearn.
I. (Aug. 25) Introduction

II. (Aug. 27 - Sept. 8) Greek Philosophy 1: Plato and Platonists on Expanding Understanding Through Art

*Plato, Selections from Republic VII (on iLearn) X (pp. 30-45), Symposium (pp. 68-77), and Phaedrus (pp. 57-67).
*Plotinus, Selection from the Enneads (pp. 141-150).

III. (Sept. 10 - Sept. 24) Greek Philosophy 2: Aristotle on Art and Emotions

*“What is Art?” (pp. 80-83).
*Selections from Poetics (pp. 97-113).
*“Fear and Pity” (pp. 126-131).

IV. (Sept. 29 - Oct. 15) Islamic Philosophy: Avicenna on Imagination, Art, and Prophecy

Avicenna on the Human Perfection (Selection from the Metaphysics of al-Shīfā’).
Avicenna’s Psychology (Selections).
Selections from Avicenna’s Poetics.
Avicenna’s Epistle of the Bird.

October 13: Midterm Review

October 15: Midterm Exam

V. (Oct. 20 - Nov. 5) German Idealism: Kant and Hegel on the Beautiful and the Sublime

*Kant, Selections from the Critique of Judgment (pp. 280-323).
*Hegel, Selections from the Lectures on Aesthetics (pp. 382-445).
Secondary Sources: Žižek’s “Not Only as Substance, but Also as Subject,” Azadpur’s “Hegel and the Divinity of Light in Zoroastrianism and Islamic Philosophy,” and Irigaray’s “Any Theory of the ‘Subject’ Has Always Been Appropriated by the ‘Masculine’.”

VI. (Nov. 10 – Nov. 19) Continental Aesthetics: Heidegger on Art as the Revelation of the Real

*Heidegger, Selections from The Origin of the Work of Art (pp. 650-700)

November 24-26: Fall Recess

VII. (Dec. 1-8) Analytic Aesthetics: Meta-Ethics and Aesthetic Value

Palmer, “Meta-Ethics”

December 10: Final Review

December 17 (10:45-1:15): Final Exam