Although the arts are generally seen as forms of communication, what they communicate, how, and to whom, is not always easy to explain. The course will consider how different cultures and periods have defined the nature and role of the arts and of artists and audiences. Particular attention will be paid to the roots of the modern sense of alienation and incomprehension with which most people approach the fine arts. We will also explore the aesthetic dimension of experience with the arts as well as other objects and events; and the ways in which the arts have served as vehicles for the transmission of central cultural beliefs.

TOPIC AND READING LIST:
(All readings required unless otherwise noted.)

I. WEEKS 1-2: ART IN THE MODERN WORLD, I.


REC: Shiner, Larry The Invention of Art (Chicago, 2001)
II. WEEKS 3-4: ART AND SYMBOLIC COMPETENCE


III. WEEKS 5-7: COMMUNICATING MEANING AND EMOTION


Fussell, Paul *Poetic Meter And Poetic Form*, (Vintage, 1965), Chapters 1 and 9


#Ivins, William *Prints And Visual Communication* (MIT, 1953) Chapters 2, 7 and 8 (rest recommended).
IV. WEEKS 8-10: CODES AND CONTEXTS

#Baxandall, Michael *Painting and Experience In 15th Century Italy*, (Oxford, 1972).


Green, Lucy “What is it to be musically educated?” *How Popular Musicians Learn*, Chapter 1 (Ashgate, 2002), pp. 1-20 [esp. 1-8].

REC: Becker, H. *Artworlds* (California, 1982), Chapters 2-11.

V. WEEKS 11-13: THE CONTENT OF SHAPE


REC: Capra, Fritjof. *The Tao of Physics* [Shambala, 1975].


VI. WEEKS 14-15: ART IN THE MODERN WORLD, II.


ADDITIONAL READINGS TO COME...


# -- Books – best ordered online
Other readings on Blackboard

ASSIGNMENTS

45% Mid-term take-home exam
45% Final take-home exam
10% Class Participation

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course include acquiring:

- Familiarity with the ways in which the arts can be considered to be modes of communication, and what messages are conveyed through the arts;
- Culturally and historically grounded concepts and terminology for appreciating how the understanding of the arts has varied across time and space;
- An awareness of the specific historical and cultural roots of the alienation of the arts from mainstream society that have characterized modern Western cultures;
- The ability to navigate the overlapping territories of the arts and the mass media in the contemporary world.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Annenberg School of Communication is committed to upholding the University's *Academic Integrity Code* as detailed in the SCampus Guide. It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code. Any serious violation or pattern of violations of the Academic Integrity Code will result in the student’s expulsion from the Communication major or minor.

Any Student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with *Disability Services and Programs* (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as early as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776."