

PHILOSOPHY 330

Fall 2020

3rd Essay Assignment

Due Monday, October 26

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 330 #3.

Write a 4-5 page essay on one of the following topics:

Nietzsche on Greek Tragedy

Why did Nietzsche think the high point of Greek culture was not Socrates and Plato, but rather Aeschylus and Sophocles, the great authors of Greek tragedy? What did he mean, in *The Birth of Tragedy*, when he explained that tragedy arose from the combination of Apollonian and Dionysian art? How does Nietzsche's conclusion about art at the end of *The Birth of Tragedy* open up the possibility of modern art? What is the highest aim of art suggested at the end of *The Birth of Tragedy*?

Art as Affirmation of Life

How does Nietzsche develop in the later writings the notion, already suggested in *The Birth of Tragedy*, that art is the means to the affirmation of life? How might his philosophy be summed up in the brief line from his late notebooks: We possess *art* lest we *perish of the truth*? Explain how his notion of the philosophers of the future as artists is connected with the suggestion of the philosopher as lucid dreamer or as courageous seafarer venturing out into the open sea? What do you think of this view about the importance of art in the affirmation of life?

Art as Expression

Explain Tolstoy's view that art is expression. In further developing the art as expression theory how did Croce's develop and challenge Tolstoy's view? What are some of the problems with expression theory as developed by Tolstoy and Croce, and how did Collingwood try to meet these objections in further developing the expression theory of art? What do you think of this view of art as expression?

Art as Significant Form

Why does Clive Bell argue that we must have a definition of art, a definition which would enable one to distinguish works of art from everything that is not art? Explain his view that the distinguishing features of works of art is *significant form*. What do you think of this notion of art as significant form? Is it necessary to have a definition of art?