

Topics in Metaphysics: Ontology of Art (PHIL 184)
Spring 2006

Time: MW 10:00 AM – 11:50 AM
Location: Dodd 170
Instructor: Ben Caplan
Office: Dodd 382
Office Hour: T 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM, or by appointment
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Description

This is a course in applied metaphysics. We will be studying artworks, particularly musical works. We will address questions about their nature (e.g. are they abstract or concrete? universals or particulars? types or tokens?), their existence (e.g. are they located in space and time? if so, where and when? can they be created or destroyed?), and their individuation (e.g. are they individuated by art-historical context?).

Readings

Readings will be assigned during the quarter. We will read papers from the last 26 years by Jerrold Levinson, Peter Kivy, Julian Dodd, and Guy Rohrbaugh, among others. Many (if not all) of these will be available electronically through the course webpage.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on two or three short papers. Due dates will be announced in class as we proceed. You will have at least one week to write each paper.