

# Introduction to Philosophy

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## Art and Aesthetic Judgment: Art as Redemption

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

### Reading

- Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*.

### Background

See the reading for a fine introduction to this material.

### Questions

1. Friedrich Nietzsche associates Apolline art with dreams. What aspect of dreams is important for him? In what sense are artworks of this type like dreams? Meanwhile, Dionysiac art is the art of intoxication, according to Nietzsche. How does this differ from Apolline art?
2. What is the tale of Midas that Nietzsche tells? Why is this tale significant and how does it relate to Apolline and Dionysiac art, as well as tragedy?
3. How are the contrary Apolline and Dionysiac forces unified by tragedy? According to Nietzsche, how did Euripides destroy tragedy? Why is Socrates associated this?