

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS
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**Against Interpretation:
Susan Sontag and the Erotics of Art**

September 2022

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Lin Atnip	COURSE LENGTH: 3 Weeks DATES: September 10-24	Remote Course
EMAIL: imatnip@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Saturday TIMES: 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. CST	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC80018 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"To interpret is to impoverish, to deplete the world—in order to set up a shadow world of 'meanings,'" Sontag proclaims in her brilliant and inciting "Against Interpretation." "Away with all duplicates" of the world, she urges, "until we experience more immediately what we have," calling instead for an "erotics of art." We will read Sontag's now-classic polemic as well as others of her best and most provocative essays on art and the arts.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sontag, Susan, *Against Interpretation and Other Essays* (Picador, 2001, ISBN: 978-0312280866)
*Other editions are acceptable.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 Sep. 8	Sontag	“Against Interpretation,” “On Style” (<i>Against Interpretation</i> pp. 1-36)
WEEK 2 Sep. 15	Sontag	“Bergman’s <i>Persona</i> ” from <i>Styles of Radical Will</i> (PDF), “In Plato’s Cave” from <i>On Photography</i> (PDF); Recommended viewing: <i>Persona</i> (dir. Ingmar Bergman)
WEEK 3 Sep. 22	Sontag	“The Death of Tragedy,” “Remarks on Camp,” “One Culture and the New Sensibility,” “Afterword: Thirty Years Later” (<i>Against Interpretation</i> pp. 132-139, 275-312)

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.