

PH248-15 Aesthetics: Art, Beauty and the Sublime

21/22

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Diarmuid Costello

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

An in-depth introduction to one or more foundational texts in the tradition of philosophical aesthetics. Typically, one of the texts will be Kant's Critique of Judgement and other readings will be drawn from subsequent major work in aesthetics and/or the philosophy of art by, for example, Schiller, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Dewey, Collingwood, Adorno, Benjamin, Freud, Lyotard. This year we spend the first 5 weeks on Kant's Critique of Judgement, and after reading week turn to Heidegger's Origin of the Work of Art and related essays.

Module aims

By the end of the module students should have a good overview and understanding of one or more influential texts in the history of aesthetics, and to be able to engage critically with the key ideas and some of the debates in recent scholarship and aesthetic theory to which those texts have given rise.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

WEEK 1: KANT AND CONCEPT OF REFLECTIVE JUDGEMENT

WEEK 2: ANALYTIC OF THE BEAUTIFUL (FIRST/ SECOND MOMENTS)

WEEK 3: ANALYTIC OF THE BEAUTIFUL (THIRD/ FOURTH MOMENTS)

WEEK 4: ANALYTIC OF THE SUBLIME, MATHEMATICAL/DYNAMICAL

WEEK 5: FINE ART, GENIUS AND AESTHETIC IDEAS

WEEK 6 READING WEEK

WEEK 7: HEIDEGGER'S CRITIQUE OF AESTHETICS

WEEK 8: ORIGIN OF THE WORK OF ART I (WORLD AND EARTH)

WEEK 9: ORIGIN OF THE WORK OF ART II (BEING & TRUTH)

WEEK 10: KANT AND HEIDEGGER RECONSIDERED

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the central arguments and substantive issues in the set texts and secondary literature
- Critically assess the key claims and arguments of the core texts, and later debates concerning the nature and scope of aesthetic theory to which they have given rise
- Articulate their own view of the relative merits of conflicting interpretations in the literature, and engage critically with other points of view;
- Demonstrate some understanding of the methodological issues raised by reading Kant's third Critique and Heidegger's artwork essay as contributions to debates in aesthetic theory and the philosophy of art;
- Articulate the significance of art and the aesthetic for cognition more generally, and their relation to other domains of value;
- Present their arguments and interpretations of the texts clearly both orally and in written form

Indicative reading list

There are three core texts for this course, one by Kant and Heidegger respectively, plus a commentary on Kant.

i. There are two acceptable translations of Kant's Critique of Judgement. Students are advised to purchase Werner S. Pluhar's translation, Hackett Publishing Co., 1987. But Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews, CUP, 2000, is also good.

ii. Students are advised to buy Christian Helmut Wenzel's commentary, An Introduction to Kant's Aesthetics: Core Concepts and Problems, Blackwell, 2005.

iii. Martin Heidegger, 'The Origin of the Work of Art' originally appeared in Heidegger's Holzwege, now available as *Off the Beaten Track*, trans. J. Young & K. Haynes, CUP 2002, which also includes 'The Age of the World Picture'

Subject specific skills

- i. Understand the key arguments of several core texts in the history of aesthetics;
- ii. Grasp the relation and differences between aesthetics and the philosophy of art;

- iii. Understand the significance of the beautiful and the sublime and their relation to art;
- iv. Appreciate the role of normativity and truth in aesthetics and the philosophy of art.

Transferable skills

- i. Develop skills of argument, analysis and textual interpretation;
 - ii. Develop a capacity for close reading of complicated historical texts;
 - iii. Be able to present ideas clearly in verbal and written form;
 - iv. Be able to assess the merits of very different philosophical starting points.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading, seminar and assessment preparation.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
1000 word essay	20%	
2500 word essay	80%	

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the coversheet for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 4 of UPHA-V701 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Core option list A for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 3 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list B for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic

and Foundations

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list A for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 3 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 4 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature