

INTRODUCTORY UNDERGRADUATE CLASS – AESTHETICS

The appreciation of beauty and art invites many philosophical questions: what is unique about aesthetic experience? Are there objective standards for the appreciation of beauty? What are the conditions of artistic creation? Does art have a special role for the development of knowledge or morality?

In this course we will study different answers to these questions from the 18th and 19th centuries when these questions started to draw extensive attention. We will end this course with 20th century essays that challenge many of the traditional conceptions of art.

Additionally we will assess the various theories by applying them to examples from visual arts, literature and film.

Content and objectivity of aesthetic judgments:

Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten – *Reflection on Poetry*

Francis Hutcheson – *An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue*

David Hume – *On the Standard of Taste*

Immanuel Kant – *Critique of the Power of Judgment*

The significance of art, moral and metaphysical:

Immanuel Kant – *Critique of the Power of Judgment*

Friedrich Schiller – *Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man*

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel - *Philosophy of Fine Art, Introduction*

Arthur Schopenhauer – *The World as Will and Representation, Book III*

Friedrich Nietzsche – *The Birth of Tragedy*

Leo Tolstoy – *What is Art?*

Clive Bell - *The Aesthetic Hypothesis*

Contemporary perspectives on art

Arthur C. Danto - *The Artworld*

Linda Nochlin - *Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?*

Cynthia Freeland - *Cultural Crossings*