

PHIL5310—HISTORY OF AESTHETICS

Tu/Th 11:00-12:20, Eng/Phil 264

Fall 2014

Instructor

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Course Description

Although both the term “aesthetics” and our contemporary concept of the Fine Arts trace only back so far as the 18th century, philosophical investigation of beauty and such arts as sculpture, painting, and literature go back to the very beginnings of the discipline. In this course, we will study a selection of the most influential writings on the topic, beginning with Pythagoras, and ending with Hegel in the 19th century, tracing the development of core concepts and theories of beauty and art.

Core Texts

We will be using a number of texts in this class:

- Hofstadter & Kuhns, *Philosophies of Art and Beauty* (University of Chicago Press, ISBN 978-0226348124)
- Plato, *Two Comic Dialogues: Ion and Hippias Major* (Hackett, ISBN 978-0-915145-77-5)
- Aristotle, *Poetics* (Hackett, ISBN 978-0-87220-033-3)
- St. Bonaventure, *The Reduction of the Arts to Theology* (Franciscan Institute of St. Bonaventure University, ISBN 978-1576590430)
- Leon Battista Alberti, *On Painting* (Penguin, ISBN 978-0140433319)
- Frances Hutcheson, *An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue* (Liberty Fund, ISBN 978-0865977747)
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (Hackett, ISBN 978-0872200258)
- GWF Hegel, *Introductory Lectures on Aesthetics* (Penguin, ISBN 978-0140433357)

As well, a number of our readings will be provided as PDFs, as noted in the Course Schedule, below.

Course Requirements

Students must submit three 10-12 page essays throughout the term, one on a topic covered in the first block of readings (“Ancients”), one on a topic covered in the second block (“Middle Ages & Renaissance”), and one on a topic in the third block (“18th & 19th Centuries”). Each paper comprises 25% of your final grade.

- Paper 1 on the *Ancients*, due Tuesday, October 7.
- Paper 2 on the *Middle Ages & Renaissance*, due Tuesday, October 28.
- Paper 3 on the *18th & 19th Centuries*, due Friday, December 5.

Participation

The final 25% of your grade is your participation grade. Participation includes doing the assigned readings *before* the class in which the reading shall be discussed, taking active part in class discussion, putting serious effort into your papers, and attendance. See also “Classroom Courtesy” below.

Special Accommodations

- Students with disabilities that require special class or exam accommodations must present a form from AccessTECH Disability Support Program specifying the details during the first week of classes. Their offices are located in 335 West Hall. See www.accesstech.dsa.ttu.edu.
- You will not be penalized for any absences due to religious observances. However, it is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any intended absences for religious observance *as soon as possible* so that we can make other arrangements. As well, it remains your responsibility to have read the material assigned for that day and to obtain any notes from one of your classmates for classes missed.

Classroom Courtesy

Please be courteous to your fellow students and avoid unnecessary disruptions. Arrive on time, leave on time, and *turn off your cell phone during class*. Note that if your cell phone rings during class, *I will answer it*. Laptops are permitted in class, but please do not abuse this privilege. Text-messaging is *not* permitted during my class. If you are seen text-messaging during class-time, your participation grade will be deducted 1 point. This is your only warning.

The Writing Center

Particularly for new philosophy students, I strongly recommend that you work on your paper with a writing tutor. The Writing Center offers *free assistance* in room 175 of the Philosophy and English Building. See <http://english.ttu.edu/uwc01>.

Academic Integrity and Irresponsibility

I take incidents of academic misconduct *very seriously*. These include but are not restricted to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication. Penalties are dependent on the nature of the misconduct, and may involve disciplinary proceedings with the Student Judicial Programs. Knowing what constitutes academic misconduct is *your responsibility*. If you have a concern about what constitutes academic dishonesty *prior to turning in an assignment*, please see me, and I will be happy to help you. For more information, see <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Acronyms listed below refer to:

- **AR** = Aristotle, *Poetics*
- **FH** = Francis Hutcheson, *An Inquiry...*
- **GH** = GWF Hegel, *Introductory Lectures...*
- **IK** = Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*
- **H&K** = Hofstadter & Kuhns, *Philosophies of Art and Beauty*
- **LA** = Leon Battista Alberti, *On Painting*
- **PDF** = Material provided by professor
- **PL** = Plato, *Two Comic Dialogues*
- **StB** = St. Bonaventure, *The Reduction of the Arts to Theology*

The Ancients	Tu: 08/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wladyslaw Tatarkiewicz, "Pythagorean Aesthetics" (PDF)• Xenophon, Selections from <i>Memorabilia</i> (PDF)
	Th: 08/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, <i>Hippias Major</i> (in PL)
	Tu: 09/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, Selections from <i>Statesman</i> (H&K, 5-8)• Plato, Selections from <i>Symposium</i> (H&K, 68-77)
	Th: 09/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, <i>Ion</i> (in PL)
	Tu: 09/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, Selections from <i>The Republic</i> (H&K, 8-45)

	Th: 09/11	• Aristotle, Various Selections (H&K, 80-96)
	Tu: 09/16	• Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> (in AR)
	Th: 09/18	• Aristotle <i>continued</i> (no readings)
	Tu: 09/23	• Plotinus, Selections from <i>Ennead</i> (H&K, 139-170)
Middle Ages / Renaissance	Th: 09/25	• St. Augustine, Selections from <i>De Ordine</i> and <i>De Musica</i> (H&K, 171-202)
	Tu: 09/30	• St. Bonaventure, Chapter 2 of <i>Journey of the Mind Into God</i> (PDF) • St. Bonaventure, <i>Reduction of the Arts to Theology</i> , including Commentary (in StB)
	Th: 10/02	• St. Bonaventure <i>continued</i> (no readings) • Leon Battista Alberti, <i>On Painting</i> , incl. “Nature and Order” and “The Present Edition” from Introduction (in LA)
	Tu: 10/07	• Alberti <i>continued</i> (no readings)
	Th: 10/09	• Marsilio Ficino, Selections from <i>Commentary on Plato’s Symposium</i> (omitting Seventh Speech) (H&K, 204-235)
	Tu: 10/14	• Ficino <i>continued</i> (no readings)
18 th & 19 th Centuries	Th: 10/16	• Shaftesbury, Selections from <i>Characteristics of Men...</i> (omitting selection from <i>Second Characters</i>) (H&K, 241-266)
	Tu: 10/21	• Francis Hutcheson, <i>An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue</i> : Preface and Treatise I (in FH)
	Th: 10/23	• Hutcheson <i>continued</i> (no readings)
	Tu: 10/28	• David Hume, “Of the Delicacy of Taste and Passion” (PDF) • David Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste” (PDF)
	Th: 10/30	No Class
	Tu: 11/04	• David Hume, “Of Tragedy” (PDF) • Edmund Burke, Selections from <i>A Philosophical Enquiry Into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful</i> (PDF)
	Th: 11/06	• Thomas Reid, “Of Taste” (PDF)
	Tu: 11/11	• Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i> : “Analytic of the Beautiful” (IK, 45-95) • Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i> : “Analytic of the Sublime” (IK, 97-140)
	Th: 11/13	• Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i> : “Deduction of Pure Aesthetic Judgments” (IK, 141-207) • Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i> : “Dialectic of Aesthetic Judgment” (IK, 209-232)
	Tu: 11/18	• Kant <i>continued</i> (no readings)
	Th: 11/20	• Hegel, first half
	Tu: 11/25	Holiday: No Class
	Th: 11/27	Holiday: No Class
	Tu: 12/02	• Hegel, second half (skip Ch. 4)