Course Title: Analytic Aesthetics
Course Code: PHI538
Recommended Study Year: -
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours: 2 hours lecture per week
1 hour tutorial per week
Category in Major Programme: Value Philosophy
Prerequisite(s): -
Co-requisite(s): -
Exclusion(s): -
Exemption Requirement(s): -

Brief Course Description
This course introduces the students to some of the contemporary debates in analytic aesthetics. Aesthetics is here understood as the study of a certain kind of value, which derives from a certain kind of experience. The study of aesthetics in contemporary analytic philosophy involves the analysis of such experiences along with discussions on a series of related properties, concepts, and mental faculties, e.g., beauty, ugliness, aesthetic pleasure, aesthetic properties, aesthetic perception, taste, imagination. Problems in aesthetics largely overlap but do not fully coincide with the problems discussed in philosophy of art. In this course, we will also address some of those problems in philosophy of art that are more strictly connected to the study of aesthetics.

Aims
The course aims to:
- Introduce the students to some of the main contemporary debates in analytic aesthetics;
- Enable students to draw connections among the analyses of various concepts, properties, and mental capacities that characterize the study of aesthetics;
- Present contemporary theories of the relationship between aesthetic and artistic values;
- Provide students with theoretical tools to develop their own views on the philosophical issues debated.

Intended Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course, students will be able to:
(LO1) Describe the main debates in contemporary analytic aesthetics.
(LO2) Specify the theoretical connections among the various concepts, properties and mental capacities that characterize the study of aesthetics.
(LO3) Illustrate how issues in philosophy of art and aesthetics are related.
(LO4) Propose and discuss their personal views on various problems in aesthetics and philosophy of art.

Indicative Content
1. Aesthetic Concepts
2. Taste
3. Aesthetic Perception and Experience
4. Aesthetic Pleasure
5. Aesthetic and Artistic Values
6. Aesthetic Properties
7. Beauty and Ugliness
8. Imagination and Understanding
9. Aesthetic Theories of Art
10. Emotions and Expression in Art
11. Art, Aesthetics, and Morality

Teaching Method
Lectures, tutorial presentations and discussion

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
Students will take:
- Short in-class quizzes, in which they will have to answer short questions on the various concepts and theories discussed in class (to assess LO1, LO2, and LO3);
- A midterm exam, in which they will have to answer long questions on the first part of the course (to assess LO1, LO2, and LO4);
- A final exam, in which they will have to write long essay questions on the content of the course. Students will have to elaborate their views on the theories discussed in class (to assess LO1, LO2, LO3, but mainly LO4).

In the tutorial sessions, students will answer short questions posted on Moodle on the weekly lectures (to assess LO1-2-3-4).

Assessment
- In-class quizzes (30%)
- Midterm exam (30%)
- Final exam (40%)

Required Readings

Papers and lecture notes will be available on moodle.

Suggested Readings
Alex Neill and Aaron Ridley (eds.), *Arguing about Art. Contemporary Philosophical Debates* (McGraw-Hill, 1995)