

**Lingnan University
Department of Philosophy**

Course Title	: Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
Course Code	: PHI4399D
Recommended Study Year	: 2-4 Years
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3
Category in Major Programme	: Programme Elective - Special Topics
Prerequisite(s)	: N/A
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course will provide an overview of contemporary issues in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. The central issue in aesthetics are: what is aesthetic value? How is it grounded in the properties of objects we value aesthetically and the experiences we get from those objects? The central issues in the philosophy of art include: what is art? What is involved in understanding and interpreting artworks? In what does artistic value consist?

Aims

1. To provide a understanding of the central issues in contemporary aesthetics and the philosophy of art, and some of most important positions taken on these issues. 2. The develop students ability to think critically and analytically about these issues. 3. The help students develop their own views about the issues.

Learning Outcomes

On successfully completing the courses, students will be able to: 1. identify important views on the central issues in aesthetics, 2. state and evaluate arguments for some of these views, 3. articulate and justify their own views on these issues.

Indicative Content:

- I. Aesthetics
 - a. Aesthetic value in nature and everyday life
 - b. What is Aesthetic experience?
 - c. Aesthetic properties and aesthetic judgments
- II. Philosophy of Art
 - a. What is art?
 - b. Metaphysical issues about art
 - c. Interpreting Art
 - d. The nature of and responses to fiction
 - e. What makes artworks valuable as art?
 - f. The ethical evaluation of art
 - g. The value of architecture

Teaching Method:

Lecture/discussion

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes will be measured by

1. oral presentations on assigned readings (LO1 and LO2);
2. 2 essays (LO1, LO2, and LO3); and
3. final exam (LO1, LO2, and LO3).

Assessment

Assessment will be based on presentation and performance in class discussion, essays, and a final exam.

20% oral presentations
40% essays
40% final exam

Required Readings

Gracyk & Stecker, *Aesthetics: A Reader*, Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming.

Supplementary Readings

Stephen Davies, *Aesthetics: an Introduction*, Blackwell, 2006.

Matthew Kieran, *Contemporary Debates in Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art*, Blackwell, 2003.

Robert Stecker, *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: An Introduction*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>