Brief Course Description
Paradigmatic aesthetic properties include beauty, elegance, gracefulness, harmony, balance, loveliness, prettiness, handsomeness, and unity, as well as their negative counterparts, for example, ugliness, clumsiness and disunity. The course investigates the nature, reality, and structure(s) of these properties. It also focuses on special cases such as rightness of architectural proportion, musical beauty, functional beauty, and the aesthetic properties that are responsible for our interest in 'painful art' (horror and tragedy).

Aims
The aim of the course is to gain a deeper insight into the nature, reality, structure, and diversity of aesthetic properties through careful scrutiny of claims made in the literature by prominent authors.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course, students should be able to:
- distinguish and compare different kinds of aesthetic properties
- compare aesthetic properties to other kinds of properties such as perceptual properties and moral properties
- apply confidently such technical notions as 'definition', 'normative', 'logical construction', 'metaphor', 'mind-dependence', 'response-dependence', and 'sortal concept'
- demonstrate how the course topic bears on other issues in aesthetics and metaphysics.

Indicative Content
Hypotheses and conjectures to be explained and critically examined include:
1. All aesthetic properties are values, at least to some extent.
2. Aesthetic properties of mixed, evaluative-descriptive character have separable evaluative and descriptive components.
3. It is possible to analyze the concept of an aesthetic property in non-aesthetic terms.
4. Some terms designating aesthetic properties are not metaphorically applicable.
5. Aesthetic properties are response-dependent.
6. Aesthetic properties are sortal-dependent (in a special way).
7. Aesthetic properties are sortal-relative.
8. Mirror images necessarily have the same aesthetic properties.
9. Only the apparent proportions of a building matter aesthetically.
10. Whether a musical work is beautiful or not depends entirely on how it sounds.
11. Functional beauty is a distinct kind of beauty, more or less equivalent to looking fit.
12. Aesthetic properties such as being moving explain why people engage with emotionally negative art.
13. It is the function of art to have certain aesthetic properties in virtue of certain non-aesthetic
Teaching Method
Lectures, discussions and tutorials focusing on the required reading.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
Students' progress towards the learning outcomes will be measured in terms of their exam performance (LO1, LO2, LO3, and LO4), their participation in class discussions (LO1, LO2, and LO3), and their engagement with the required reading (LO1 and LO2). Students may also be offered the opportunity prepare a brief (group) presentation on a particular topic, for example, a particular aesthetic property (LO1, LO2, and LO3).

Assessment
10% participation, 40% mid-term exam, 50% final exam (40% + 10%, if a presentation is included).

Required Readings
Excerpts from:
- De Clercq, Rafael (manuscript in preparation) *Aesthetic Properties*.

Supplementary Readings
**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/](https://pla.ln.edu.hk/)