Course Title: Introduction to Aesthetics

Course Code: CCA4005

Aims and Objective

This is an introductory course discussing “art” and “beauty” from philosophical perspective. Classical aesthetic theories (of Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Bell, Beardsley, Collingwood and Heidegger) will be introduced, together with the interpretation of these theories within contemporary societies. The course also explores the concept of aesthetics today, and its relation to various cultural theories including feminism, globalism and materialism. Prevalent aesthetic representations such as the media, beauty management and visual arts will also be dealt with.

1. What is art/beauty? - To offer students an introduction to theories of aesthetics, from the classical to the postmodernist, by looking into concepts of beauty as well as art.  
2. Art and societies - To guide students to think critically and test the applicability of these theories in various art forms and beauty representations in contemporary societies. 
3. Art and me - To encourage students to relate their personal aesthetic experiences to the analysis of artworks and theories, through discussion, artistic creation and improvisation.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. discuss the basic concepts of art, beauty and life by examining theories of Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Bell, Beardsley, Collingwood and Baudrillard;  
ILO2. identify similarities, differences and linkages between these theories with relation to their particular artistic and historical contexts;  
ILO3. use case studies to apply these theories to their own society and personal life experience;  
ILO4. integrate aesthetic theories taught and their personal reflection;  
ILO5. explicate and argue critically for or against the aesthetic question concerned in a group presentation.

Syllabus

1. Introduction  
   Expression – Tolstoy and R. Collingwood  
   Activity: Action - “Making Statement”
2. Form – Plato and Clive Bell  
   Activity: Creation - Formalistic Artwork
3. Meaning – E. Gombrich  
   Activity: A Meaningful Debate
4. Material – W. Benjamin  
   Activity: Game – The Thing and I

5. Charm – Baudrillard and J. Berger  
   Activity: Beauty Contest

6. Percept – Aristotle, Hogarth and Beardsley  
   Activity: Scientific Experiment on Art

7. Concept – F. Sibley  
   Activity: Screening – “Proof”

8. Taste (Sense) – D. Hume  
   Activity: Wine Tasting

9. Taste (Judgment) – I. Kant  
   Activity: Role Playing of the Judge

10. Truth & Value – Heidegger  
    Activity: Reflection and Confession

Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation (30%)</td>
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<td>Individual Essay (30%)</td>
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<td>Quiz (20%)</td>
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<td>Self-Evaluation (10%)</td>
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<td>Participation (10%)</td>
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Remarks (if any)

My Beauty Journal (Optional): A self-reflective pocket-size journal kept by the student throughout the course.

Pre-requisite(s)

Nil

Required and Recommended Reading


16.06.2017