Aesthetics Honours: Spring Semester 2017

Course organiser: Dr Andrew Mason
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Office Hour: Monday, 2.00-3.30 (6.10, DSB).

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Course Description

The course will examine theories of beauty, the arts and the aesthetic in contemporary thinkers, while also considering historical treatments of these topics. Topics discussed will include aesthetic experience, beauty, art, the aesthetics of nature, literary interpretation, forgery, morality and emotion.

Teaching will consist of a weekly lecture (Wednesday, 11.10 a.m.-12.00 noon, 1.20, Dugald Stewart Building), and a tutorial, for which there will be two groups (times and places to be confirmed). The main lecture readings will also be used as a basis for discussion in tutorials. The tutorial in week 1 will be introductory; after this tutorials will move a week behind lectures, i.e. the tutorial in week 2 will be based on material from the lecture in week 1, etc.
There will be an additional fortnightly meeting for M.Sc. students (time and place to be arranged).

Assessment

The summative assessment for the course will consist of a final exam in the May exam period (100%).
Students will have the opportunity to submit a formative essay, for feedback and an advisory mark. A list of formative essay questions will be posted at the beginning of week 3.
Fourth year honours students who have chosen to submit a coursework dissertation (5000 word essay) in this course should follow the usual procedure for coursework dissertations. They should consult the course organiser about their plans for the dissertation before the decision deadline (Monday 27th February).
M. Sc. students will be assessed by an end-of-term essay of 2500 words, following the usual procedure for the M. Sc., and will have the opportunity to submit a midterm formative essay.

Readings:

Introductory works.
C. Lyas, *Aesthetics*.
A. Shephard , *Aesthetics*.
G. Graham, *Philosophy of the Arts: an Introduction to Aesthetics.*

Collections: (these contain many of the works listed below, as well as being generally useful).

D. Cooper, *Classic Readings in Aesthetics.*
G. Dickie and R. Sclafani, *Aesthetics: a Critical Anthology.* (Second edition by Dickie, Sclafani and Roblin.)
P. Lamarque and S. Olsen, *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art.*
A. Neill and A. Ridley, *Arguing about Art* .
P. Kivy, *The Blackwell Guide to Aesthetics*.
P. Alperson, *The Philosophy of the Visual Arts.*
O. Hanfling, *Philosophical Aesthetics; an Introduction.*
S. Feagin and P. Maynard, *Aesthetics*.
J. Levinson, *Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics.*

Reference work (in encyclopaedia form).
D. Cooper, ed., *A Companion to Aesthetics.*

Lecture content.
Two main readings are listed for each lecture, which all should read; additional reading is given for those wishing to develop their knowledge of a topic further.

1. Art: traditional theories (imitation, expression, significant form).

1. L. Tolstoy, 'On Art', in Cooper.
2. R.G. Collingwood, *Principles of Art* Ch. 7, reprinted in Cooper.

See also R. Hurtsthouse, 'Truth and Representation', in Hanfling; Plato, *Republic*, and Aristotle, *Poetics*, extracts in Cooper; C. Bell, *The Aesthetic Hypothesis*, in Cooper; M. Weitz, 'The role of theory in Aesthetics', in Lamarque and Olsen, or 'Art as an Open Concept' in Dickie and Sclafani.

2. Art: institutional and artworld theories.

1. A. Danto, 'The Artworld', *Journal of Philosophy* 1964.
2. G. Dickie, *Art and the Aesthetic* Ch. 1. 'What is Art? An Institutional Analysis'.

See also J. Levinson, 'Defining Art Historically', and G. Dickie, 'The New Institutional Theory of Art', both in Lamarque and Olsen.

3. Aesthetic experience and the aesthetic attitude.

1. J. Stolnitz 'The Aesthetic Attitude' in Dickie and Sclafani.
2. G. Dickie, 'The Myth of the Aesthetic Attitude', *American Phil. Quarterly* 1964, and in Dickie and Sclafani.

See also E. Bullough, 'Psychical Distance as a Factor in Art and an Aesthetic Principle', in Dickie and Sclafani.

4. Beauty (and other aesthetic values).

1. A. Nehamas, 'An Essay on Beauty and Judgement', *The Threepenny Review* 2000

<http://www.threepennyreview.com/samples/nehamas_w00.html>.
2. N. Zangwill, 'The Beautiful, the Dainty and the Dumpy', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 1995, reprinted in Zangwill, *The Metaphysics of Beauty*.

See also M. Mothersill, 'Beauty and the Critics Judgement; Remapping Aesthetics', in P. Kivy, ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Aesthetics*.

5. The aesthetics of nature.

1. A. Carlson 'Appreciation and the Natural Environment', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 1979.
2. M. Budd, 'The Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 1996, and in Lamarque and Olsen.

See also R. Hepburn, 'Contemporary Aesthetics and the Neglect of Natural Beauty', in Lamarque and Olsen, and D. Crawford, 'The Aesthetics of Nature and the Environment', in Kivy, ed. *Blackwell Guide.*

6. Literature: intention and interpretation.

1. W. Wimsatt and M. Beardsley, 'The Intentional Fallacy', in Dickie and Sclafani.
2. R. Stecker, 'The Constructivists' dilemma', in Lamarque and Olsen.

See also M. Beardsley 'Intention and Interpretation: a Fallacy Revived' and J. Levinson, 'Intention and Interpretation in Literature', both in Lamarque and Olsen.

7. Art and morality.

1. Noel Carroll, 'Moderate Moralism', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 1996.
2. Berys Gaut, 'The Ethical Criticism of Art', in J. Levinson, ed. *Aesthetics and Ethics* and in Lamarque and Olsen.

See also K. Walton, 'Morals in Fiction and Fictional Morality' (and response by M. Tanner) in Lamarque and Olsen.

8. Forgery.

1. N. Goodman, *Languages of Art,* Ch. 3.
2. C. Radford, 'Fakes', Mind 1978, reprinted in Radford, *Driving to California*.

See also A. Lessing, 'What is Wrong with a Forgery?' and D. Dutton, 'Artistic Crimes' in Neill and Ridley.

9. Music and emotion.

1. P. Kivy, 'How Music Moves' in P. Alperson, ed. *What is Music?*, reprinted with revisions as Ch. 8 of Kivy, *Music Alone*.
2. Jenefer Robinson, 'The Expression and Arousal of Emotion in Music', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 1994, and in Lamarque and Olsen.

See also P. Kivy ‘The Profundity of Music’ in Lamarque and Olsen. P. Alperson ‘The Philosophy of Music; Formalism and Beynd’ in Kivy, ed. *Blackwell Guide.*

10. Tragedy and emotion.

1. C. Radford, ‘How Can we be Moved by the Fate of Anna Karenina?’ in Radford, *Driving to California*, reprinted in Neill and Ridley and in Lamarque and Olsen.
2. S. Feagin, ‘The Pleasures of Tragedy’, *American Phil. Quarterly* 1983; reprinted in Neill and Ridley (**NB** first edition only).

See also D. Hume, ‘On Tragedy’, in Hume, *Essays, Moral, Political and Literary.*

11. What is aesthetics?
followed by a question period for revision.