Aesthetics
PHIL 10117
Semester 2
2018-19

1. Course Information

SCQF Level: 10 (Year 3 Undergraduate)
SCQF/ECTS Credits: 20/10

Course Organiser: Tom Baker
Email: thomas.baker@ed.ac.uk
Drop in Hours: TBC, 5.11 DSB

Course Secretary: Ann-Marie Cowe
Email: philinfo@ed.ac.uk

2. Course Description

This course will introduce students to some central topics in philosophical aesthetics, including the nature of art, aesthetic experience and judgement, and some issues arising in the philosophy of the particular arts. We will examine theories of the arts and the aesthetic in contemporary thinkers, while also considering some historical treatments of these topics.

Content Warning: In two of the topics – Moral Learning from Fiction and Feminist Aesthetics – we will be covering some sensitive topics, regarding for e.g. race and gender. If you have any concerns about this, please feel free to get touch.

Learning Objectives

Knowledge:
Students should gain a critical appreciation of debates concerning: the nature and possibility of aesthetic experience and judgements; authenticity and emotional experience of music; the concept of art; some social and feminist issues relating thereto.

Skills:
Students will develop their ability to: reason, philosophically, to a well-thought-out position on various topics in aesthetics; develop their own views, systematically, drawing
upon the sources on which the course focuses; express themselves clearly and precisely, both in writing and in tutorial discussion.

**Understanding:**

Students should gain a critical understanding of: some contemporary views on aesthetics experience; a variety of approaches to basic issues pertaining to engagement with artworks and non-art artefacts; some aesthetic and ethical issues pertaining to aesthetic theory and practice.

### 3. Structure of Teaching

**Total Hours: 200.** There will be 11 two-hour lectures, 10 one-hour tutorials, and 4 programme level learning and teaching hours. This leaves 164 hours of directed and independent learning. If you want to do well at this course, you will need to do the required work outside of class time.

### 4. Course Content

**4.1 Lecture Schedule**

Lectures are Monday 16:00-18:00 (wks. 1-5 and 6-11) room S.1 in 7 George Square

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14th January Intro to Course and Aesthetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21st January Aesthetic Properties</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>28th January Aesthetic Experience</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4th February Aesthetic Judgements</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>11th February Aesthetics of Nature</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Flexible Learning Week</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>25th February Authenticity</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>4th March Music and Emotions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>11th March Moral Learning from Fiction</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>18th March The Definition of ‘Art’</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>2nd March Popular Art</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>1st April Feminist Aesthetics</td>
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4.2 Tutorial Schedule

Tutorials are Thursday/Friday (wks. 2-5 and 6-11)

Readings and questions for each tutorial will be available on Learn beforehand.

Before the tutorial you must have read, thought about and made notes on the listed reading, and answered the set reading questions. Do not worry about getting the perfect answers, but do think carefully about the questions as this will help as a starting point for the tutorial discussion. In addition to your answers to the questions you must bring a copy of the reading with you to the tutorial. This can either be on paper or in electronic form (i.e. downloaded on to a well charged tablet or laptop).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week commencing</th>
<th>Set Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; January</td>
<td>Walton (1970) ‘Categories of Art’ §1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Ross (2012) ‘Comparing and Sharing Taste: Reflections on Critical Advice’</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Flexible Learning Week</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Robinson (1994) ‘The Expression and Arousal of Emotion in Music’</td>
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<td>8 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Levinson (1989) ‘Refining Art Historically’</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Cohen (1999) ‘High and Low Art, and High and Low Audiences’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Korsmeyer (1998) ‘Perceptions, Pleasures, Arts: Considering Aesthetics’</td>
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4.3 Reading List

Below are the core readings and some suggested further readings for each topic. Tutorial readings are indicated with *. It is not necessary to read everything. However, for the purpose of assessment you will be expected to have read the core readings relevant to the question/topic.

Recommended Anthologies

Levinson (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics* (OUP)


Feagin & Maynard *Aesthetics* (OUP)

Lamarque & Olsen (eds.) *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: the analytic tradition – an anthology* (Blackwell Publishing).


Intro to Aesthetics


Aesthetic Properties

Core Readings


Further Readings


Aesthetic Experience

Core Readings


Further Readings


\textbf{Aesthetic Judgement}

Core Readings


Further Readings


The Aesthetics of Nature

Core Readings


Further Readings


Authenticity

Core Readings


Further Readings


Music and Emotions

Core Readings


Further Readings


Moral Learning from Fiction

Core Readings


Further Readings


The Definition of ‘Art’

Core Readings


Further Readings


**Popular Art**

*Core Readings*


*Further Readings*


Feminist Aesthetics

Core Readings


Further Readings


5. Assessment

1500word midterm essay (40%) and end-of-semester take-home test (60%).

Further info and advice on the assessments will be included in assessment documents, which will be available via Learn.

5.1 Midterm Essays

Due date: Thursday 28th February 2019, by 12pm (mid-day)

5.2 Take-home Test

Released: Monday 8th April 2019
Due: Thursday 11th April 2019, by 12pm (mid-day)