Aesthetics Honours: Autumn Semester 2019

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 two weekly whole-class seminars (16.10-17.00, Monday and Tuesday, 51, 7 George Square), and a tutorial, for which there will be four groups (Thursday, 13.10-14.00 and 14.10-15.00, 3.10, Dugald Stewart Building; Friday, 12.10-13.00, 3.11, DSB, and 13.10-14.00, 3.10, DSB). The two seminars each week will normally deal with a single topic. The main seminar readings will also be used as a basis for discussion in tutorials: in the course of the term each student will be invited to introduce a reading in a tutorial. Tutorials begin in week 2.

Assessment.
Assessment consist of a midterm essay (maximum length 1500 words), due at noon on Thursday 24th October (40%) and an end-of-semester take-home test, released on Monday 2nd December and due at noon on Thursday 5th December (60%). Suggested topics for the midterm essay will be released at the beginning of week 2.

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.
P. Lamarque and S. Olsen, Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art.
A. Neill and A. Ridley, Arguing about Art.
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.
Seminar content.
Two main readings are listed for each seminar, which all should read; additional reading, for those wishing to develop their knowledge of a topic further, will be recommended in the course of the term.

1 (Monday). Introduction to Aesthetics.
(No required reading.)

1 (Tuesday). Art: traditional theories (imitation, expression etc.).

2. Art: institutional and artworld theories.

3. Aesthetic experience and the aesthetic attitude.

4. Beauty (and other aesthetic values).

5. The aesthetics of nature.

2. J. Levinson, ‘Intention and Interpretation in Literature’. (In Levinson, *The Pleasures of Aesthetics*; will be available on Learn.)

7. Art and morality.

8. Forgery.
1. N. Goodman, *Languages of Art*, Ch. 3. (Will be available on Learn.)

10. Tragedy and emotion.

11 (Monday). A topic from historical aesthetics.
(This topic will not be examinable. The class will have some input into choice of topic.)

11. (Tuesday). Question period for revision.