



ACCF LAAA 490 Aesthetics

Course title	Aesthetics
Credits	3
Professor	Simonetta Duretto
Course Description	The course will present the evolution of the most relevant subjects of Aesthetics, with special attention given to the ideas of Beauty and Art. The development of these subjects will start with the first attempts of aesthetics (Classical Greece) and will arrive to the present, when the interaction among Aesthetics, Design and Fashion has now become a necessary territory where these three disciplines converge.
Learning Objectives and Outcomes	At the end of the course the student will be able to recognize and analyze different theories on "Beauty." Learning outcomes and skills learned include: 1. Identification and recognition of the specific artistic/philosophical language of Western civilization's concept of "Bello e Bellezza" (Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Neoclassical, Romantic, etc.). 2. Understanding of the history of Aesthetics as an ancient and modern discipline; the concept of Beauty as subjective and objective, the semiotics of objects in art. 3. Applying acquired knowledge to the class project, demonstrating the ability to identify in "Beauty" not merely exterior characteristics (= the ability to "communicate" and contribute to cultural and personal enrichment). 4. Research and creation of a project on Aesthetics, including its presentation in oral and written form.
Course Materials	Notebook Laptop
Student Assessment	Student assessment will be based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of a project/research or written paper (mid-term) for the evaluation, then a final essay (together with an oral presentation).- Research paper, presented orally and in written form.- Evaluation of class notes and, when possible, participation in class visits to exhibits, workshops and educational activities with museums, art galleries etc.
Assignments	Midterm and Final Exam (oral & written)
Evaluation Scale	The Italian grading system is based on a maximum of 30 points with 18/30 as the lowest passing grade. In case of excellence 30 cum laude may be awarded.

Bibliography, Webography, Filmography	<p>H.Belting, <i>An Anthropology of Images</i>, 2011. E.Morin, <i>Sull'estetica</i>, Ed. Cortina, 2019. Studi di Estetica, <i>Rivista fondata da L.Anceschi</i>, Sensibilia 14, Mimesis 2021. J.Berger, <i>Ways of Seeing</i>, Penguin 2009 V.Ramachandran, <i>The Artful Brain</i>, 2003 Z.Chen, <i>Neuroaesthetics</i> , 2021 (online pdf) A.Chatterjee, <i>The Aesthetic Brain</i>, Oxford Univ.Press 2015. R. Arnheim. <i>Art and Visual Perception (A psychology of the Creative Eye)</i> , 2004 S. Zeki, <i>La Visione dall'Interno : arte e cervello</i>, Boringhieri, To.2007 F. Vercellone, <i>Dopo la morte dell'arte</i>, Il Mulino, Bo. 2013 A.C.Danto, <i>Che cos'è l'arte?</i>, Johan & Levi Ed, Mi 2014. A.C.Danto, <i>Andy Warhol</i>, Einaudi, To. 2010 A.C.Danto, <i>Oltre il Brillo Box</i>, Marinetti ed., 2010. A.C.Danto, <i>La trasfigurazione del banale</i>, Laterza 2008 Hegel, <i>Lezioni di Estetica</i>, Laterza, Bari 2000 W. Tatarkiewicz, <i>Storia di Sei Idee</i>, Aesthetica, Palermo 2004 S.Givone, <i>Storia dell'estetica</i>, Laterza Bari 2006. A.Crespi, <i>Ars Attack</i>, Johan & Levi ed, Mi 2014 B. Munari, <i>Arte come mestiere</i>, Laterza 2010 G.Vattimo, <i>Introduzione all'estetica</i>, Ed. Eds, 2010. E.Franzini e M,Mazzocut Mis,Breve <i>Storia dell'estetica</i>, Pearson Italia Ed, 2003 P.O.Kristeller, <i>Il sistema moderno delle arti</i>, Alinea Ed. Fi 2006.</p>
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Weekly Schedule

Week 1	<p>Introduction to the Course. Presentation of the Syllabus. Baumgarten and the birth of Aesthetics as a Philosophy of Art. What is Beauty today: does a definition of it exist? Guidelines for the understanding of Aesthetics.</p>
Week 2	<p>Introduction to an Anthropology of Images. Iconology and Iconography</p>
Week 3	<p>Beauty for the Greeks: measure and proportion. Objective and Subjective theories (Plato, Aristotle, Socrate)</p>
Week 4	<p>Beauty in medieval colors. The philosopher Plotino and the dualistic theory.</p>
Week 5	<p>The Quattrocento (XV Century) and the theme of "Bellezza Angelicata."</p>
Week 6	<p>The Renaissance and Beauty intended as grace. Michelangelo as example of the struggle for a " Divine Beauty."</p>
Week 7	<p>The concept of "Sprezzatura Agudeza," wit and "concettismo."</p>
Week 8	<p>Midterm exam (with evaluation)</p>
Week 9	<p>Beauty as delirium: Barock . Rococo and Louis XVI style.</p>
Week 10	<p>Neoclassicism. Romanticism & The birth of individual feeling.</p>

Week 11	The English philosopher Hume and subjective beauty. Beauty and the Sublime: a meeting but a millennial fight, too.
Week 12	The new beauty of the "Object": the Industrial Revolution and the Great Exhibition in London (1851). The machine is "beautiful?" The relationship between man and machine.
Week 13	The birth of Design and the concept of "widespread beauty." Politeism of Beauty: contemporary inputs for the definition of Beauty.
Week 14	Latest trends in Aesthetics: the Neuroaesthetics – contemporary studies by Semir Zeki and Vilayanur Ramachandran.
Week 15	Final exam (oral and written)