

**PHIL5573 Topics in Applied Philosophy:  
Philosophy of Art and Aesthetic Experiences**

**Course Outline**

**Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face Teaching

**Term:** 2023-24 Term 1

**Time :** Wednesday 18:30-21:30

**Location :** ARC G03

**Course Objectives**

The course introduces human artistic phenomena and philosophical aesthetics. It introduces main theories of art with reference to classical and modern masterpieces. It reviews aesthetic experience, outline the fundamental ways of art appreciation, and reflect critically on the relation of art and philosophical thoughts. Students will attend art events and write about art from critical perspectives. Sharing of aesthetic and creative experience is strongly encouraged, as well as understanding of art in our everyday lives.

**Topics/Schedule**

- 1 What is Art and the Undefinability of Art
2. Philosophical Aesthetics and Classical Theories of Art as Imitation /Expression
3. Aesthetic Experience and The Origin of the Work of Art
4. What is Beauty?
5. Art and Existence
  - i) Body and Art
  - ii) Gender and Art
  - iii) Social Reality and Art
  - iv) Human Subconscious and Art
  - v) Abstractionism
  - vi) Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction and Technology
6. Art and Morality Issues and What is Beauty?
7. What is a Masterpiece?
8. Writing about Arts and Art Criticism

**Learning outcomes**

Knowledge

- (1) Students will learn about basic features of Chinese and Western aesthetics and some representative classical and modern art masterpieces produced.
- (2) Students will learn the major principles and theories of art and be benefited from them in understanding artistic creativity and their products.

(b) Skills

- (1) Students will be able to appreciate artistic activity and the meaning of it to our lives.
- (2) Students can review art in critical angles and reflect on the works under social and cultural contexts.

(c) Attitude

Students will be aspired to fine works of art and interested in knowing more about them, and the aesthetic experience they will have through the appreciation of them.

**Learning activities**

Weekly lectures on the Topics Listed
Class discussion on the issues and the problems of the topics raised
Group presentation on the philosophical texts and art criticism assigned
Art activities with appreciation, aesthetic experience sharing and critical review

**Assessment scheme**

<b>Task nature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Discussion /Participation	The degree of attention and proactivity in class and contribution to the learning which demonstrate the extent of preparation, motivation & communication skill.	30%
Class Presentation and Report	The class will be divided into 10 groups, with 2 to 3 students in a group. They will be assigned readings to do presentation of them with materials that can promote the understanding of the text, and the ways to lead the class discussion. The presentation will be scored according to the comprehension of the text, communication skills and materials prepared that has enhanced the class's understanding of the text.	30%
Final Art Criticism	Individual writing which should review selected art work or art performance with description details and critical analysis. The assessment will look at the	40%

	theories learned in class and the ways to apply them, and the student's art appreciation capacity and critical ability.	
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### Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

### Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

### Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

### Recommended learning resources (Tentative)

Margolis, J. (ed.) *Philosophy Looks at the Arts*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987.

Baxter J. and Atherton ed., P. *Aristotle's Poetics / translated and with a commentary by George Whalley* ; Montreal ; Buffalo : McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997

Kelly, M. *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*. New York : Oxford University Press, 1998.

Dickie, G. *Evaluating Art*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1988.

Eaton, M. *Basic Issues in Aesthetics*. Belmont: Wadsworth Pub. Co. 1988.

Kupfer, J.H. *Experience as Art*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1983.

Lynton, N. *The Story of Modern Art*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1990.

Rader, M. *A Modern Book of Esthetics*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973.

Scruton, R. *Art and Imagination*. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982.

Tilghman, B.R. *But Is It Art?* Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1984.

宗白華：《藝境》(北京：北京大學出版社。1987)。

徐復觀：《中國藝術精神》(台北：學生書局。1987)。

Man, Eva KW. *Cross- Cultural Reflections on Chinese Aesthetics, Gender, Embodiment and Learning*, Singapore: Springer Nature PTE co., 2020.

Man, Eva KW. & Petts, J. ed. *Comparative Everyday Aesthetics in Contemporary Living*, Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Press, 2023.

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**Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)**

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Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.