

PHIL4413
Topics in Comparative Philosophy: Aesthetics East-West
T2 2023-2024

Time: Monday 10:30am-1:15pm

Location : ERB 408

Course overview

Since the dawn of human civilization, the visual arts have enjoyed a key role in how we communicate with one another. While fine art is a visual mode of expression, its significance transcends its material existence. If there is one thing that painting depends on it is color and color reveals the spirit of the artist. This course explores the artistic theory of painting in order to reveal its metaphysical significance. The texts we will read come from both China and Europe, from antiquity and modernity. Some of the thinkers will be familiar while others will not. By the end of this course, you will have developed a newfound appreciation of the visual arts and their philosophical meaning.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes

1. Develop sensitivity to the common concerns of human existence especially from a comparative perspective between eastern and western of philosophy.
2. Equip students with life-long learning capacities especially through understanding of the connections between academic pursuits and life experience.
3. Relate the subject matters to human experience and/or modern life.

Topics

See lecture schedule below

Learning activities

1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings.
2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes.
3. Improve your research skills through various writing assignments.
4. Attend lectures and engage your fellow classmates in discussion on the material presented.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Research paper outline	At least 250 words	15%
Research paper	At least 4,000 words	60%
Class presentation	20 mins	15%
Class attendance	n/a	10%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

1. The research paper outline must provide a detailed account of your arguments in 250 words or more and include a descriptive bibliography of at least six sources you will refer to in your paper.

2. The research paper should be in English and at least 4,000 words in length, not including footnotes and bibliography. The topic is up to you so long as it falls within the domain of philosophical aesthetics. Comparative papers are not allowed. You should follow the Chicago reference style for your footnotes and bibliography (See: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html).

3. You are to give a 20-mins presentation on one of the course readings and be prepared to answer questions in the short discussion afterwards. Your presentation should briefly outline the major philosophical arguments of the reading (5 mins) before moving on to discuss what you found interesting in the reading and why (15 mins).

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Course schedule

Week	Lecture Topics	Reading	Remarks
Jan 8	Classical Western Theories of Art	Aristotle, <i>De Poetica</i> Plotinus, <i>On the Beautiful</i>	
Jan 15	Classical Chinese Theories of Art	Various Authors	
Jan 22	Johann Herder	Selected Writings	
Jan 29	Pre-Tang Dynasty Theories of Art	Various Authors	Presentations Begin
Feb 5	Tang Dynasty Landscape Painting	Jing Hao	Paper outline due
Feb 12	No Class – Lunar New Year		
Feb 19	Song Dynasty Landscape Painting	Guo Xi	
Feb 26	Hegel	<i>Lectures on Fine Art</i>	
March 4	No Class – Reading Week		
March 11	Schopenhauer	<i>Metaphysics of Fine Art</i>	
March 18	Ming Dynasty Landscape Painting	Shi Tao	
March 25	Heidegger	<i>Origin of Work of Art</i>	
April 1	No Class – Easter Holiday		
April 8	Jean-Luc Marion	<i>Crossing of the Visible</i>	
April 15	Jean-Luc Nancy	<i>The Portrait</i>	Paper due

Contact details

Name:	Prof. D. Chai
Office location:	Room 422, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7066
Email:	davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk

Academic honesty and plagiarism

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/academic_honesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

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.