



## Aesthetics Course Descriptor

Course Title	Aesthetics	Faculty	Philosophy
Course Code	NCHPH722	Course Leader	TBA
Credit Points	20	Teaching Period	Any
FHEQ Level	Level 7	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Optional		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

### COURSE SUMMARY

This course examines the nature and value of aesthetic experiences and works of art. The first part of the course focusses on important historical figures in philosophy from antiquity to the early twentieth century who have written about art and aesthetics. Indicative topics include why Plato banished dramatic poetry from his ideal republic, Kant's account of pure judgements of taste, and Collingwood's theory of art as expression. The second part of the course focuses on some key contemporary debates in aesthetics and philosophy of art. Indicative topics include how the meaning of a literary work relates to its author's intentions, the interaction between moral and aesthetic value in art, and the nature of the emotions we apparently feel for fictional entities.

### COURSE AIMS

The aims of this course are:

- To develop advanced skills in the interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of key philosophical texts in the history of aesthetics.
- To promote students' ability to categorize, elaborate, and compare the chief philosophical approaches to questions about the nature and value of aesthetic experiences and works of art.
- To enable students to form and defend their own estimates of the merits of alternative positions on traditional issues and contemporary debates in aesthetics.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1d Demonstrate wide-ranging knowledge of, and recognition of systematic connections between, key questions and debates in aesthetics.
- K2d Show detailed critical engagement with the texts and theories of key historical figures in philosophy who have written on art and aesthetics from the Ancient, Modern and Contemporary periods.

### SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1d Employ advanced philosophical devices to support, challenge, or adapt, key positions on the nature and value of aesthetic experiences and works of art.

### TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1d Demonstrate self-direction in working independently, creatively, and to deadlines.
- T2d Organise and synthesise information, question assumptions, and critically assess competing arguments.
- T3d Produce original, clear, sophisticated, and persuasive written treatments of complex topics.
- T3d Consistently apply an excellent level of technical proficiency in written English, using an advanced application of scholarly terminology, that demonstrates the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and with sophistication.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- 30 hours of lectures
- Two one-hour one-to-one tutorials

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course, including end-of-term Collections meetings (see below). Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The study of philosophy cultivates skills that are employable across a range of sectors. These include the abilities to:

- Work independently, creatively, and to deadlines
- Conduct research and explore relevant existing knowledge
- Analyse, contextualise, and interpret complex ideas and materials

- Synthesise and evaluate information against a backdrop of uncertainty
- Solve problems through logical reasoning
- Present findings and opinions in a clear, structured manner, whether orally or in writing
- Engage in collaborative and constructive discussion

## ASSESSMENT

### FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, both written and oral.

### SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written assignment	100%	Yes	N/A	5000 words

The written assignment will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

### FEEDBACK

Students will receive feedback in a variety of ways, written and oral, within one-to-one tutorials, in discussion phases of lectures, and on formatively and summatively assessed assignments. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their performance.

Feedback is provided on summative assessment and is made available to the student either via email, the VLE or another appropriate method.

### INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

### BOOKS

Collingwood, R. G. (1938) *The Principles of Art*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Hume, D. (1996) 'Of the Standard of Taste', in his *Selected Essays*. Edited by Stephen Copley and Andrew Edgar. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 133–153.

Kant, I. (2013) *Critique of the Power of Judgment*. Translated by Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Moss, J. (2007) 'What Is Imitative Poetry and Why Is It Bad?', in Ferrari, G. R. F. (ed), *The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 415–444.

Plato (2008) *Republic*. Translated by Robin Waterfield. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**JOURNALS**

Carroll, N. (1996) 'Moderate Moralism'. *British Journal of Aesthetics*, 36, pp. 223–238.

Walton, K. (1975) 'Fearing Fictions'. *The Journal of Philosophy*, 75, pp. 5-27.

Wimsatt, W. and Beardsley, M. (1946) 'The Intentional Fallacy'. *The Sewanee Review*, 54, pp. 468–488.

**INDICATIVE TOPICS**

Topics such as the following will be studied:

- Aesthetic experience and judgement
  - Aesthetic value
  - The nature and experience of works of art
  - Relationships between art and morality
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<b>Title: NCHPH722 Aesthetics Course Descriptor</b>					
<b>Approved by: Academic Board</b>					
<b>Location: Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/ Postgraduate Programme Specifications/MA Philosophy Programme Specification/Philosophy Course Descriptors</b>					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Proposed next review date	Modification (As per AQF4) & category number
2.0	January 2022	April 2022	Brian Ball	April 2025	Category 3: Changes to Course Learning Outcomes
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Brian Ball	April 2025	