

AESTHETICS

MOUNT IDA COLLEGE
HT 320 AESTHETICS
FALL TERM 1990
BERARD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the major theories of aesthetics from both an historical and conceptual point of view. The realm of aesthetics is explored in terms of 3 different "abstraction-levels", ranging from most to least abstract as follows:

- 1) Meta-aesthetics: A metaphysical context for starting aesthetics
- 2) Pure aesthetics: Philosophical elucidation of basic aesthetic concepts, history of aesthetic theories and philosophies of art, evaluation, aesthetic value, meaning, truth, attitude, attribute, style and modalities.
- 3) Applied aesthetics: Exemplifications in particular design categories of the arts, nature and science.

The central focus of this course is topic 2, with topic 1 serving as supportive foundation and topic 3 serving as clarifying examples. The three topics illuminate each other as a synergistic whole. The course content, therefore, is a philosophic "system".

The study of aesthetics is intrinsically valuable for enriching our lives, it extends the boundaries of and synthesizes the design understandings of other courses, and it is relevant to numerous professional applications. At the conclusion of the course, it is hoped that students are inspired to continue to pursue and apply their favorite branches of aesthetics in the many years ahead.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course time is divided among the said three topics, to encompass the first ten weeks of the semester. The remaining two weeks are for summary and conclusion. Lecture-discussion, readings, a notebook project and an exam comprise the course. Handouts will be supplied to supplement and clarify lectures and text. Due dates and late penalties apply.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Grades are based 15% on class performance, 35% for written exam, 50% on notebook project. The notebook project entails writing summary notes from readings and lectures, and classifying handouts. Attendance is mandatory. (Five points per unexcused absence is deducted from final grade. An excused absence requires a formal note from registrar's office, and make up of missed material. If absent, see instructor at next class for information). Students should attend assigned section only, unless prior arrangement required. Extra help is available by appointment and is encouraged. The value of this course will be proportional to your enthusiasm!

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

The required text is:
AESTHETICS-- CLASSICAL GREECE TO THE PRESENT by Beardsley.

Supportive texts are:
ART AND VISUAL PERCEPTION by Arnheim
RATIONALISM AND ROMANTICISM by Lesnikowski.

Notebook paper, manila folders and a large looseleaf notebook as directed in class are also required. Syllabus may be subject to change.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST

The required texts are by Ber dsley. The supplemenatary texts are located in Mt. Ida Library for selected readings. Reading lists and handouts by professor are pending.

TITLE	AUTHOR	ASSIGNMENT DATE / PAGES
* AESTHETICS	(BEARDSLEY)	
* CLSC GREECE TO PRESENT: SHORT HISTORY	"	
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(supplemental)		
ART AND VISUAL PERCEPTION	(ARNHIEM)	
TOWARD A PSYCHOLOGY OF ART	"	
VISUAL THINKING	"	
ART AND ENTROPY	"	
FORM, SPACE AND ORDER	(CHING)	
THE ARTS OF THE BEAUTIFUL	(GILSON)	
THE ART OF COLOR AND DESIGN	(MAITLAND GRAVES)	
FORM, FUNCTION, DESIGN	(GRILLO)	
NEW BEARING ESTHETIC/ART CRITICISM	(HEYL)	
(pending selections)	(JENKS)	
AESTHETICS THE SCIENCE	(KAIZZ)	
CREATING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY	(LANG)	
PRESCEDENTS IN ARCHITECURE	(PAUSE/CLARK)	
A MODERN BOOK OF ESTHETICS	(RADER)	
AESTHETICS PHILOSOPHY OF ART CRITICISM	(STOLONITZ)	
(revisions pending)		