

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Literature, Art and Philosophy
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	6
4	Module Code	EGL6127

5	Module Overview
<p>This module is concerned with philosophical aesthetics that is the branch of philosophy that deals with questions about the nature of art and beauty. We will take a historical view of aesthetic theory, beginning with Plato and Aristotle and moving through to twentieth-century thinkers such as Collingwood via Kant and the Romantics. Major forms of aesthetic theory – from the mimetic to the mystical – will be considered with reference to individual works of art. The bias is towards literature, but we will also study painting, sculpture and other visual arts. The first part of the module covers a broad history of ideas (indicated above); the second part focuses on notably ‘philosophical’ works of literature by Shakespeare and Shelley. The idea is to study some works of literature in depth to understand how the various theories might be applied to individual works, and also to think about the limitations of this process.</p> <p>You will develop the foundation of your knowledge through a series of lectures which are followed by workshops in which you will apply your understanding of the field through a range of practical activities. These might include: close readings of literary texts, analysis of the built environment, mini-presentations, forum posts, application of theoretical and contextual documents and/or field trips. Your formally taught sessions will be supported by pre-sessional learning activities delivered via Moodle and post-sessional reflection on the workshop’s learning aims. Your independent learning will be characterised by the development of your wider creative and critical knowledge of the field which will be supported by the application and development of your research skills.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>Lecture: Introduction to philosophical aesthetics.</p> <p>Seminar: discussing main types of aesthetic theory.</p> <p>Lecture: Plato’s metaphysics, his account of poetry, and the mimetic theory of art. Introduce assignment topics.</p> <p>Seminar: small group discussion / activities relating to Plato’s allegory of the cave.</p> <p>Lecture: Aristotle’s theory in relation to Plato. Their variations as mimetic theorists.</p> <p>Seminar: Aristotle’s rules on Tragedy and the idea of having rules for making art.</p> <p>Lecture: Kant’s aesthetics with some reference to his influence on Romanticism.</p> <p>Seminar: problems in applying Kant’s theory to individual works of art.</p> <p>Lecture on Collingwood’s theory of Art and its Kantian inheritance. Some thoughts on art criticism and ekphrasis. Seminar: exercises in interpretation of painting.</p> <p>Lecture based on Attridge’s ideas on singularity. Seminar based on close reading of poems in an attempt to capture what is ‘singular’ about them.</p>	

Lecture: Introduction to Shakespeare and philosophy. Seminar: discussion of the play in small groups.
More detailed discussion of the play in relation to its critical heritage. Seminar: exploring Hamlet's soliloquies.
Lecture on Shelley's ideas, particularly how 'poetry' and 'art' seem interchangeable terms for the poet. Shelley's Platonism and his account of Shakespeare.
Lecture on the crossover, in Shelley, from philosophical prose to philosophical poetry.
Lecture: Introduction to philosophical aesthetics.
Seminar: discussing main types of aesthetic theory.

7	Module Learning Outcomes
	On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:
1	Identify and discuss a range of philosophical theories about art.
2	Apply philosophical analysis and interpretation to works of art.
3	Comparatively assess different philosophies of aesthetics.

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2, 3	x		

9	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	36	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	100	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	64	
Total Study Hours:	200	