## **Aesthetics**

## Prof. Guido Boffi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to present the status of aesthetics and its relationship with the philosophy of arts, the key topics, the traditional categories, and their transformations in the current debate.

In particular, the course aims to:

1. provide students with the key concepts and methodologies they need to analyse the issues underlying the contemporary aesthetic debate;

2. promote the adoption of a critical approach towards the study of this subject, and the ability to reinterpret its key concepts.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know and understand the epistemological foundations of aesthetics;
* analyse the different forms of aesthetic expression;
* put into practice their interpretative, argumentative, and communication skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be focused on the following topics:

* a short introduction of the key elements of aesthetics, aimed to outline its object, method, and experience; the fundamental structures of aesthetics: sensation, perception, emotion, expression, creation, and interpretation; the status, the objects, and the approaches of the theory of art;
* the reflection upon the human sensorium and the body-mind problem; the issues related to beauty and ugliness, the sublime and the tragedy; taste, the work of art and the market; planning and poetry.

***READING LIST***

A. Pinotti (a cura di), *Il primo libro di estetica*, Einaudi, Torino, 2022.

Lecture notes.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course, covering one academic semester (6 ECTS credits, corresponding to 30 hours), will be based on frontal lectures. Some of them will be focused on interactive teaching, in order to promote active participation in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, aimed to assess knowledge and understanding of course content, and acquisition of methodological and critical skills. Duration: about 30 minutes.

Based on the topics explained during the course, the final exam will be divided into two different parts (to be taken on the same day): a) the first one will be characterised by three-four questions on the textbooks indicated in the reading list: b) the second one will be based on three-four questions on a specific work of art and a dedicated reading list proposed by the student and approved by the lecturer.

Assessment criteria: adoption of a critical approach and appropriate use of argumentation will determine an excellent mark (from 27 to 30 with honours). Rote learning of the topics explained during the course and limited use of argumentation will determine a good (from 24 to 26) or acceptable mark (from 21 to 23). Poor knowledge of the subject and inadequate use of argumentation will determine a sufficient mark (from 18 to 20). Defective knowledge of course content and poor use of argumentation will determine an insufficient mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

More detailed information on the parts of the recommended texts, bibliographical material and additional study material will be provided by the lecturer during the lectures and on the Blackboard platform.

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.