# Aesthetics

## Prof. Guido Boffi

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

The course aims to introduce students to the fundamental elements of aesthetics and its relationship to the philosophy of art and iconology.

The learning objectives are:

1. to provide the essential conceptual and methodological tools for exploring the issues at the heart of contemporary thought on aesthetics;

2. encourage a critical approach to the study of the discipline and an independent approach to interpreting its perspectives.

By the end of the course, students will:

* know and be able to discuss the epistemological foundation of aesthetics;
* be able to express themselves using the specific technical language of the discipline;
* be able to develop the ability to critically analyse and iconologically interpret artistic expression;
* be able to apply specific interpretative, argumentational and communicative skills

***COURSE CONTENT***

Lectures will address the following main topics:

* a brief introduction to the fundamental features of aesthetics, identifying its object, method and experience; the fundamental structures: the main keywords;
* a brief introduction to the classical tradition and iconological research methodology founded by Aby Warburg, including formal solutions and the intensification of expressive content;
* the migrations of classical figurative themes in Western civilisation up to the contemporary age.

***READING LIST***

***Course in Philosophy***

A. Pinotti (ed.), *Il primo libro di estetica*, Einaudi, Turin, 2022.

S. Settis, *Futuro del “classico”*, Einaudi, Turin, 2024.

Plus at least one of the following texts:

S. Settis, *Incursioni. Arte contemporanea e tradizione*, Feltrinelli, Milano, 2020.

A. Warburg, *Per monstra ad sphaeram*, a cura di D. Stimilli e C. Wedepohl, Abscondita, Milano 2021.

A. Warburg, *Mnemosyne* *Atlas* – *L’Atlante Mnemosyne*, in <http://www.engramma.it/> (tables and critical essays)

M. Centanni (a cura di), *Warburg e il pensiero vivente*, Ronzani Editore, Dueville (VI), 2022.

***All other courses:***

M. Centanni (a cura di), *L’originale assente*, Ronzani Editore, Dueville (VI), 2021 (solo su Amazon: [https://www.amazon.it/Loriginale-assente-Introduzione-tradizione-classica/dp/B09K26CCLS](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.amazon.it/Loriginale-assente-Introduzione-tradizione-classica/dp/B09K26CCLS&data=04|01|guido.boffi@unicatt.it|c0342f35897848c1e28508da0fdf9e61|b94f7d7481ff44a9b5886682acc85779|0|0|637839750352475581|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0=|3000&sdata=fYb4/eprCpGvOr3WQN3fOn2mgaUsyhKywuTOY+FeY6s=&reserved=0) )

S. Settis, *Incursioni. Arte contemporanea e tradizione*, Feltrinelli, Milano, 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

This semester-long course (6 ECTS credits corresponding to 30 hours) will be delivered by means of frontal lectures in class. Lectures may also take the form of seminars, taking a participatory and interactive approach.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both ongoing and final, will also be provided remotely through our University's Blackboard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and communicated at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam designed to evaluate their learning and familiarity with course contents, along with their methodological-critical skills. Total exam time: approximately 30 minutes.

The oral exam will focus on the whole syllabus and will be divided into two parts to be taken on the same exam date: a) on the texts on the reading list; three to four questions; b) on a text chosen by the student, but agreed with the lecturer, from those presented and recommended in class; three to four questions.

Students who demonstrate consistent understanding of the themes in question, who apply critical thinking and strong discursive and reasoning skills will be awarded the highest marks i.e. 27-30 with *lode* (distinction). Students whose knowledge is primarily learned by rote and demonstrate inconsistent language and reasoning skills will achieve good (24-26) to fair marks (21-23). Students who demonstrate minimal knowledge of content or gaps in their preparation or reasoning and discursive skills will achieve low pass marks (18-20). Students with poor knowledge of content and inadequate discursive and reasoning skills will not pass the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is introductory in nature and has no prerequisites in terms of content.

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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.