**Art Criticism and Phenomenology**

## Prof. Giovanni Ferrario

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

The course encourages in-depth criticism of images through art, by producing a comparative analysis between works of art dating to different ages in order to make artistic and cultural heritage management more informed and efficient. The course provides students with methods to analyse critically the structure of works of art as a dynamic, fluid and complex research area.

Intended learning outcomes include the ability to gather and interpret data, develop their communication skills through the use of an appropriate terminology, and acquire new critical reading skills. In addition, it aims to illustrate the complexity of art works and of the cultural phenomena behind them, also through a comparative analysis of their geographical and historical background. At the end of the course, students will be able to use their newly-acquired skills for a comparative reading of the phenomena under analysis, thanks to a methodology aimed at developing their critical thinking abilities and the ability to learn which allows them to study independently.

Course structure

The course comprises 40 hours of lectures with the possible participation of some artists and professionals in the industry to cover specific topics. Lectures will encourage debate and can also include visiting important exhibitions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First Part

*Description of general features of art criticism and visual theories*

Analysis on the function of criticism and methodological bases for analytical research into images and the main aesthetic features of visual arts.

Second Part

*Creation and nature.*

Through the study of artistic processes the course attempts to problematise the question of artistic creation and its transformative capacity. Within the event of art there is unexplored territory which can amaze and bring to light the contradictions of a world in danger of losing its humanity.

***READING LIST***

Mandatory books:

*Part 1*

E.H Gombrich, *La storia dell’arte,* Phaidon paperback edition, London 2008.

- Choose two of the four parts of the following book:

G. Ferrario, *La sintesi spontanea,* Edizioni Corraini, Milan 2019.

G. Ferrario (edited by), *Estetica elementare,* Pearson, Milan, 2021.

- Alternatively, after discussing it with the lecturer, he/she may replace the previous book with:

G. Ferrario (Edited By), *Estetica dell'’arte contemporanea*, meltemi, Milan, 2019.

*Part 2*

A monograph on a contemporary artist, selected among a list that will be made available on Blackboard by the lecturer.

In addition, students will have to study the teaching material provided during the lectures (available on Blackboard).

Only for non-attending students, one of the following books:

G. Agamben, *Creazione e anarchia,* Neri Pozza, Vicenza, 2017.

E. Wind, *Arte e anarchia,* Adelphi, Milan 1997.

***TEACHING METHOD***

40 hours of lectures. Possible participation of artists or professionals in the sector to cover specific topics. Lectures will encourage debate and can take place also during visiting important exhibitions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination.

The exam comprises all the topics covered during the course and aims at ascertaining knowledge of course contents, books in the reading list and ability to provide a critical analysis. The first part of the exam will assess students on historical and critical analysis of the history of art and on specific features of works of art. The second part of the exam will assess students on critical practice, on the monographic topic developed during lesson and on the analysis of the contemporary work of art in current debate.

Assessment comprises:

1. correct use of specialized lexis (5 points);

2. correct conceptual analysis of texts (5 points);

3. acquisition of effective learning method (5 points);

4. critical skills and autonomy (15 points).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Attendance of lectures is strongly advised. Possible changes to the reading list will be indicated during the course. Students who wish to write a dissertation in Phenomenology and Art Criticism are advised to attend at least either the course in Aesthetics or in History of Aesthetics.

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.