ICS Calendar Title: Grace as an Aesthetic Concept
ICS Course Code: ICS 220103 W15
Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Smick
Term and Year: Thursdays, 9:30am-12:30 pm, Winter 2015
Last Updated: February 24, 2015

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1. Course Description

For much of the Western art tradition, the concept of grace has been an important critical concept for its ability to capture the often elusive quality of artistic affect. Often referred to as the “je ne sais quoi” of art - that something extra that cannot be explained – grace even supplanted beauty for many writers (from Giorgio Vasari to Friedrich Schiller) as the highest artistic ideal. Often missing from modern analyses of the concept, however, are its theological foundations. This seminar style course will exam the concept of grace within its theological, philosophical, literary, and art theoretical contexts in an effort to understand both its historical significance and its potential usefulness for the philosophy of art today. We will look at a variety of texts (e.g. from Plato, Cicero, the Pseudo-Dionysius, Dante, John Calvin, Alexander Pope, Friedrich Schiller, Martin Heidegger) as well as works of art for which grace is an important and defining aesthetic concept.

2. Reading Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 8 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>• Heidegger, “Poetically Man Dwells”</td>
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<td>2. 15 Jan</td>
<td>Rhetorical, Biblical, and Mystical Grace</td>
<td>• Demetrius, <em>On Style</em>, III. 128-150; Dionysius of Halicarnassus, <em>On Literary Composition</em>, XI (121-123,135); Pliny the Elder, <em>Chapters</em>, XXXV, 36, 79ff; Cicero, <em>De Oratore</em>, I, 5, 17; Quintilian, <em>Institutio</em>, VI, 111, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Text</td>
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<td>3. 22 Jan</td>
<td>Early Christian</td>
<td>Paul, 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 6:23&lt;br&gt;Plotinus, <em>Ennead VI.7.21</em> and 22</td>
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<td>5. 5 Feb</td>
<td>Gratia Gratis Data</td>
<td>Thomas Aquinas, <em>Summa Theologiae</em>, I-II, 109, 1, 9 ad 2; 110, 1, 2 ad 2, 3 ad 3; 111, 4 and 5; 112, 1, 2</td>
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<td>6. 12 Feb</td>
<td>The Coloured Surface</td>
<td>Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, <em>The Romance of the Rose</em>, 20787-21145&lt;br&gt;Dante, <em>The Divine Comedy</em>, Inferno, Cantos I and II; Purgatorio, Cantos XXX, XXXI and XXXIII; Paradiso, Cantos I, X, XVII, XVIII, XXIV, XXXIII</td>
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<td>16-20 Feb</td>
<td>Reading Week no class</td>
<td>Baldessare Castiglione, <em>The Book of the Courtier</em>, 65-80&lt;br&gt;Ludovico Dolce, <em>The Aretino</em> (excerpts)</td>
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<td>7. 26 Feb</td>
<td>The Living Image</td>
<td>Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, <em>The Romance of the Rose</em>, 20787-21145&lt;br&gt;Dante, <em>The Divine Comedy</em>, Inferno, Cantos I and II; Purgatorio, Cantos XXX, XXXI and XXXIII; Paradiso, Cantos I, X, XVII, XVIII, XXIV, XXXIII</td>
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<td>8. 5 Apr</td>
<td>Enargeia</td>
<td>John Calvin, <em>Institutes</em>, XIV, 1-15; XVII, 1-34</td>
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<td>10. 19 Mar</td>
<td>A Grace Beyond the Reach of Art</td>
<td>Alexander Pope, <em>An Essay on Criticism</em></td>
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<td>11. 26 Mar</td>
<td>Weimar Classicism</td>
<td>Friedrich Schiller, <em>On Grace and Dignity</em></td>
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<td>13. 9 Apr</td>
<td>The Gift</td>
<td>Jean-Luc Marion, “Sketch”</td>
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3. Course Objectives

- Critical understanding of the art critical concept of grace
- Ability to think creatively and constructively across the realms of theology, philosophy, literature, and art theory
- Knowledge of leading debates

4. Description and Weighting of Elements to be Evaluated

- **Class participation.** Students will be expected to participate in class discussions on the required readings. **10% of final mark (TST 20%).**
- **Seminar presentation.** Students will be expected to lead class discussion in the form of a seminar presentation on certain of the required readings. **30% of final mark.**
- **Research paper on an approved topic.** Students at the Master's level will submit a 3000-4000 word research essay on an approved topic; essays by doctoral students will be 5000-7000 words. A one-page proposal with initial bibliography will be handed in **during class on 26 March 2016.** Final papers are due **22 May 2015. 60% (TST 50%) of final mark.**

5. Required Readings


Paul, 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 6:23  *NRSV* or translation of your choice


6. Some Recommended Readings


Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Student Services as soon as possible.