1. Course Description

Until recently, it was customary to regard Kant as the thinker who gave definitive form to the notion of aesthetic judgment and who succeeded in explaining why aesthetic experience is something essentially distinct from other kinds of experience. The postmodern rejection of the practice of aesthetic theory, however, has done much to undermine Kant’s position vis-à-vis the arts. This course aims to re-examine Kant’s aesthetic theory from the vantage point of the art theoretical literature that preceded it. In an effort to better understand Kant’s contribution to the history of thought about art, it will seek to contextualize such “Kantian” themes as judgment, taste, genius, beauty, sublimity and purposiveness. It will also consider to what degree our understanding of Kant has been shaped by later modernist assumptions about the character of his contribution.

2. Reading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 6 Jan</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>● Clement Greenberg, “Modernist Painting”</td>
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<td>● Lucian Krukowski, “Formalism”</td>
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<td>2. 13 Jan</td>
<td>The Ideology of the Aesthetic</td>
<td>● Terry Eagleton, “The Kantian Imaginary”</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>3. 20 Jan</td>
<td>The Idea of Form</td>
<td>- Kant, Book I, “Third Moment of the Judgment of Taste,” §11-§17</td>
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<td>4. 27 Jan</td>
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<td>- William Harvey, “Preface,” Anatomical Exercitations</td>
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<td>- Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, excerpts</td>
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<td>5. 3 Feb</td>
<td>Purposiveness without a purpose</td>
<td>- Kant, CJ, Introduction, V-VIII; Book I, §10</td>
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<td>6. 10 Feb</td>
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<td>- Romance of the Rose, 15861-16283, 16677-17070, 17469-17970, 19855-19970, 20065-20652</td>
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<td>- Kant, CJ, Part II. Critique of Teleological Judgment, §61-§67, §75-§83</td>
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<td>16-20 Feb</td>
<td>Reading Week – no class</td>
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<td>7. 24 Feb</td>
<td>The Ideal Judgment of Taste: Disinterestedness</td>
<td>- Kant, CJ, Introduction, III, IV; Book I, First Moment of the Judgment of Taste, §1-§5</td>
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<td>8. 3 Mar</td>
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<td>- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, viii, 1, 1155a-1156b</td>
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<td>- Shaftesbury, Characteristics of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times, Part Three, Section 2</td>
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<td>- Zuccaro, The Idea of Sculptors, Painters and Architects, excerpts</td>
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<td>- Cicero, De oratore, III.53.202</td>
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<td>- Quintilian, The Institutio Oratoria, VIII.3.61, IX.2.40</td>
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<td>- Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, 197; Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, 125; Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View, 52, 65, 83-84</td>
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3. Course Requirements

a) Critical understanding of such Kantian themes as judgment, taste, genius, beauty, purposiveness, and disinterestedness
b) Ability to think creatively and constructively about the history of aesthetic theory
c) Knowledge of leading debates on the place of Kant’s thought in the history of aesthetics

4. Description and Weighting of Elements to be Evaluated

a) Total reading: 1250 pages total, including research for project, of which approximately 40-60 pages per week is required to prepare for class.
b) In-seminar leadership: Seminar presentations on assigned readings.
c) Description of course project: Paper
d) Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:
   i. Class participation: 20%
   ii. Seminar presentations: 30%
   iii. Research project: 50%

5. Required Readings


Harvey, William. “Preface.” Anatomical exercitationes, concerning the generation of living creatures. London: Printed by James Young, for Octavian Pulleyn, and are to be sold at his shop at the sign of the Rose in St. Pauls Church-yard, 1653. [UofT e-resource: Early English Books online: http://go.utlib.ca/cat/5530468]


Cicero. De oratore. III.53.202

Quintilian, The Institutio Oratoria, VIII.3.61, IX.2.40

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.

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