

FA4405
History of Art
The Teleology of Art in Culture

1. Course name and code: FA4405: History of Art/The Teleology of Art in Culture

Prerequisites: Govt4405, History of Political Theory

Credits: 3 hours

2. Course Description: This course is a historical and critical review of the Western art tradition. It is unique history of art, however, in that its approach is not a pursuit of nostalgic fact and aesthetic feeling, but rather, a pursuit of the true, good, and beautiful. Beauty is associated with wisdom, with knowledge of that which is true and good. The course textbook, *For the Love of Beauty: Art, History, and the Moral Foundations of Aesthetic Judgment* examine the history of art from a philosophic and theological perspective rooted in classical philosophy and the Judaeo-Christian tradition. Readings from original philosophical works are sourced by Michael Morgan's, *Classics of Moral and Political Theory*.

3. Course Goals: This history of art aims to be both inspirational and practical. It is assumed that all cultural periods offer the promise of insight concerning the beautiful in life. It is our task to attempt to discern which of those promises are kept. This course focuses on the pursuit of insight concerning the human condition, and on the obtaining of insight that we can apply to realizing a better life.

4. Course Outcomes: Successful students will be able to

1. Present a metaphysical argument for the importance of art as a means to discern and define objective reality and to build the cultural expressions of the true, the good and the beautiful.
2. Formulate the classical perspective that art is not an isolated "making" but an extension of the human aspiration for order in life. Analyze how application of this perspective to works of art produced during the classical and post-modern periods results in very different expressions about the nature and quality of human life.
3. Distinguish and amplify the classical viewpoint about virtue, the good, and the beautiful from the Christian view point that begins with a created universe, the distinction's ramifications about the human condition and its relationship to the beautiful.
4. Explain how Augustine's theory of illumination integrates the philosophy of Christian apprehension of truth with artistic expression during the early Christian church.
5. Describe, identify, and evaluate how Christian architecture from its earliest representation through today is a formulation of how the Church taught its congregations about the relationship between the secular and the sacred.
6. Compare and contrast how the two predominant Christian viewpoints: Augustinianism and Thomism.
7. Analyze and describe how a philosophical shift in the role and nature of reason as the interpreter of reality accounts for a shift in artistic content and the rise of naturalism within religious art. Compare and contrast Leonardo de Vinci and Giotto's works within that framework.
8. Describe the differences between the medieval and the Reformation Augustinianism and account for their respective influences in the art expression of the day, e.g., Giotto and Durer.
9. Delineate how the Newtonian philosophical shift toward empirical analysis and materialism/mechanism has produced a spiritual vacuum in subsequent attempts to

- determine a common reality and concept of the Beautiful. Critique art from the Rococo Jean-Honore Fragonard to the postmodernist Marcel Duchamp.
10. Associate and account for cultural, philosophical, and artistic expressions throughout Western civilization, from its classical to its postmodern periods.

5. Course Concepts

- a. Modernism, postmodernism, relativism and narcissism, art as therapy, entertainment, propaganda, the pursuit of wisdom
- b. Classicism, Plato, Aristotle, Polytheism, Pantheism, Parthenon, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Charioteer, Laocoon. Censorship, morality and art, imitation, art and technology, art and propaganda. Mysticism, Stoicism, skepticism.
- c. The Abrahamic religions: Old Testament linkage of beauty and morality; the cultural and artistic significance of the Incarnation, Augustine, Aquinas, Trinitarianism, Dante.
- d. The illumination theory of art; monasticism, Crusades, pilgrimage route, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Saint Apollinare Nuova, Saint Peter's Basilica, idolatry
- e. Scholasticism. Mysticism, empiricism, realism, idealism, Cistercians, Cluniacs, Scholastics, Book of Kells, Romanesque, Abby Church at Vezelay, Abbot Suger
- f. Renaissance, Ockham's razor. Galileo, Machiavelli, Savonarola, scientism, Anselm, Abelard, Roscellinus, Giotto, Leonardo de Vinci, Raphael.
- g. Nominalism, individualism, humanism, Michael Angelo, Pontormo, Bruno.
- h. Reformation and Counterreformation, the Enlightenment, Luther, Calvin, St Ignatius Loyola, the Sacraments and the nature of fine art, the Baroque, Newton, Locke, Durer, Bernini Caravaggio
- i. Modernism, Relativism, Kant, French and American Revolutions, Edmund Burke. Fragonard, David, Delacroix, Courbet, Manet, Monet.
- j. Postmodernism, Kant: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Heidegger, nihilism, futurists, abstractionism, abstract expressionism, existentialism, Picasso, Duchamp, Pollack, Hopper.

6. Required Texts:

Arthur Pontynen, *For the Love of Beauty: Art, History, and the Moral Foundations of Aesthetic Judgment*. Transaction Publishers, 2006. ISBN: 0-7658-0301-1

Michael L. Morgan, ed., *Classics of Moral and Political Theory*. Fourth ed. (Hackett Publishing Company, 2005) ISBN: 0-87220-776-5.

7. Recommended Reading:

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, City of God. Marcus Dods, trans. (Modern Library, 2000) ISBN: 0679783199. \$11.17

Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics. Basic Works of Aristotle. (Princeton Review, 2001), ISBN: 0375757996. \$13.97

Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan. Michael Oakeshott, ed. (Touchstone, 1987) ISBN: 0684842955. \$9.00

Lewis, C. S., The Abolition of Man: How Education Develops Man's Sense of Morality (Harper, 2001), ISBN 0060652942, paper

Locke, John, Two Treatises of Government (Cambridge, 1963), ISBN: 0521357306. \$6.95

MacIntyre, Alasdair, After Virtue, Second edition (Notre Dame University Press, ISBN 0-268-00611-3

Oakeshott, Michael, Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays, ed. Timothy Fuller (Liberty Press, 1991) ISBN 0-86597-095-5

Pieper, Josef, The Four Cardinal Virtues, Notre Dame University Press, ISBN 13: 9780268001032.

Plato, Republic. Allan Bloom, trans. (Basic Books, 1991), ISBN: 0465069347. \$15.50
Rieff, Philip, The Triumph of the Therapeutic, (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1987) ISBN 0-226-71646-5

Rousseau, Jean Jacques, Social Contract. Maurice Cranston, trans. (Penguin, 1968), ISBN: 0140442014. \$9.00

Voegelin, Eric, Plato (University of Missouri Press, 200), ISBN: 0826212980. \$12.95

8. Additional Resources

<http://www.art-design.umich.edu/mother/>

<http://www.wga.hu>