

Philosophy of Beauty

PHIL 3503, NET

Spring, 2021



Course Description:

What is beauty and what is the sublime in nature and art? What are our judgments regarding beauty based on? What do we express when we judge something beautiful? Is beauty only a matter of individual, subjective “taste” or does beauty claim a more universal validity? Is there a relation between aesthetic and moral values? In this course we will discuss these questions guided by texts by Plato, Plotinus, Hume, Burke, Kant, Hegel, and Benjamin among others. The study of Kant’s “Critique of Aesthetic Judgment” will occupy a central part of the course.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the careful reading, interpretation, and discussion of texts. Objectives: The course will teach (i) how to read, explain, analyze, and critically interpret philosophical texts; (ii) how to extend the discussion to touch upon contemporary philosophical issues and problems; (iii) how to follow the historical development of philosophical ideas in their context.

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please feel free to email the instructor at: anuzzo@brooklyn.cuny.edu.