

Spring 2018
Phil 3502 Philosophy of Beauty
Section MW12 Registration Code 55139
Monday, Wednesday 12:50 – 2:05PM
Prof. Angelica Nuzzo

What is beauty and what is the sublime in nature and art? On what are our judgments regarding beauty based? 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. The format of the course includes lecture, class discussion, and student presentation. 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 historical development of ideas.