



Course Description

PHI2801 | Aesthetics | 3.00 credits

This course introduces students to the philosophy of art and aesthetics and includes works from the Western canon to provide a framework for understanding and analyzing art throughout history. Students will examine aesthetic theories, learn terminology, and apply approaches to art criticism, exploring intersections between art, philosophy, literature, and cultural contexts. Through this study, students will develop critical thinking skills and gain appreciation for how artistic expressions reflect and influence human development across time periods and societies.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate understanding of aesthetic theories by:

1. Analyzing key concepts in major philosophical works on art
2. Comparing different aesthetic frameworks from the Western canon
3. Examining the evolution of art philosophy through history
4. Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of various aesthetic approaches
5. Interpreting complex arguments in primary texts on aesthetics
6. Tracing the development of specific aesthetic principles over time
7. Synthesizing multiple philosophical perspectives on artistic value

Competency 2: The student will apply art criticism approaches by:

1. Investigating formal elements and principles of design in artworks
2. Examining the application of aesthetic theories to specific art pieces
3. Analyzing the historical and contextual factors influencing artistic creation
4. Assessing the role of intention in artistic interpretation
5. Exploring the connection between artistic techniques and expressive qualities
6. Evaluating the impact of cultural contexts on artistic reception
7. Comparing different methodologies in art analysis

Competency 3: The student will develop critical thinking skills through aesthetic analysis by:

1. Applying philosophical reasoning to artistic judgments
2. Critiquing the validity of interpretive claims about artworks
3. Evaluating the consistency of aesthetic positions across different art forms
4. Analyzing the integration of art with literature and philosophy
5. Comparing artistic movements from different time periods
6. Assessing the universal and particular aspects of artistic appreciation
7. Interpreting the underlying assumptions in aesthetic frameworks
8. Constructing well-reasoned arguments for aesthetic positions

Learning Outcomes

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities