

Beauty (ARTH375/PHIL275)
Spring 2015
W 1:30-4:30
East College 300

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Many terms are notoriously hard to define. Try 'justice' on for size, or 'truth'. But none is more notorious for supporting different interpretations than 'beauty.' Beauty was out of fashion in art for much of the twentieth century. But it remains a central aspect of human experience, surely one of the things that makes life worth living. But what is it? Is it out there, in the world, or in the head of the person having the experience of it? We will look both at classic and contemporary attempts to answer such questions. As well, we will try to heighten our own appreciation for beauty in the arts and in the world.

Required work and grading:

There will be weekly quizzes on the readings and three papers of around five pages each. Each of the first three papers can be re-written for a new grade. The grades for the papers will account for 60% of the final grade and the quizzes 30%. The remaining 10% is available for participation and improvement through the semester. Much more information on assignments will be forthcoming as we come up on deadlines.

Required Texts:

Umberto Eco, *History of Beauty*
Arthur Danto, *The Abuse of Beauty* [available on Moodle]
Crispin Sartwell, *Six Names of Beauty*
Dave Hickey, *The Invisible Dragon*

Schedule:

January 21
Six Names of Beauty, introduction, chapter 1

January 28
Six Names of Beauty, chapters 2-4

February 4
Six Names of Beauty, chapters 5, 6

February 11
Plato, *Symposium* (Moodle)
(Eco, chapters 1-4)

February 18
Plotinus and Shaftesbury (Moodle)
(Eco, chapters 5-9)
First paper due

February 25
Hutcheson and Hume (Moodle)
(Eco, chapters 10-14)

March 4
Kant (Moodle)
(Eco, chapters 15-17)

March 18
Schiller and Hegel (Moodle)

March 25
Hanslick and Santayana (Moodle)

April 1
Okakura and Yanagi (Moodle)
Second paper due

April 8
Danto, introduction, chapters 1-3

April 15
Danto, chapter, 4-7

April 22
Hickey, "Dragon Days," "Enter the Dragon," "Nothing Like the Son,"

April 29
Hickey "Prom Night in Flatland," "After the Great Tsunami," "American Beauty"

The final paper is due at the end of the time scheduled for our final exam (there is no final exam): Tuesday May 12 at 2:00. If you want a chance to re-write it, I'll need a draft

Accommodations for Disabilities

Dickinson College makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. I am available to discuss the implementation of those accommodations. Students requesting accommodations must first register with Disability Services to verify their eligibility. After documentation review, Marni Jones, Director of Learning Skills and Disability Services, will provide eligible students with accommodation letters for their professors. Students must obtain a new letter every semester and meet with each relevant professor prior to any accommodations being implemented. These meetings should occur during the first three weeks of the semester (except for unusual circumstances), and at least one week before any testing accommodations. Disability Services is located in Biddle House. Address inquiries to Stephanie Anderberg at 717-245-1734 or email disabilityservices@dickinson.edu. For more information, see the Disability Services website: www.dickinson.edu/disabilityservices

Expectations

I expect you to show up having read the assigned texts and thought about them a bit. I would like the class to be informal, and I solicit your participation throughout. Plagiarism will be dealt with harshly.