UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Aesthetics

**2122-2-E2001R006**

## Course title

Fundamental concepts of aesthetics

## Topics and course structure

The course will explore some of the most significant concepts and moments of modern aethetics. It will be divided into two parts:

In the first part, after an introduction on the birth of modern asthetics as a philosophical discipline, we will focus on Kant's conceptualisation of the beautiful the sublime and on Schopenhauer's reflections on the role of art in his philosophycal system.

The second part of the course will consider the transformations, role and fucntions of aesthetics and its categories in the context of advanced capitalism, focusing on its links with the commodity form and its specific ideological forms. We will ask what role can art and beauty play in the epoch of the so-called "aestheticization of the world" (Lipovetsky-Serroy)

## Objectives

- foster the knowledge of key concepts of modern aesthetic thought;
- promote the capacity to critically compare and analyse different theoretical perspectives;
- promote students' ability to apply abstract concepts to interpret the present state of affairs

## Methodologies

*Due to the measures for the containment of the Covid-19 pandemic, lectures will be either recorded or streamed*

*online using the WebEx platform.*

## Online and offline teaching materials

Slides and selected passages will be provided during the course.

## Programme and references for attending students

Three texts chosen from the following list:

PART 1

1. Kant, *Critica della capacità di giudizio*, a cura di L. Amoroso, Milano: BUR, 2013, limitatamente a Introduzione e dal §1 al §30.
2. Schopenhauer, *Il mondo come volontà e rappresentazione*, Torino: Einaudi, 2013, limitatamente al vol. 1, libro III (pp. 227-348)

PART 2

3. W. Benjamin, *L'opera d'arte nell'epoca della sua riproducibilità tecnica*, Torino: Einaudi, 2014;
4. G. Lipovetsky, *Piacere e colpire. La società della seduzione*, Milano: Cortina, 2020, solo la "Parte seconda" (pp. 209-389).

Slide e passi forniti a lezione

Recommended readings:

- Vercellone, A. Bertinetto, G. Garelli, *Lineamenti di storia dell'estetica. La filosofia dell'arte da Kant al XXI secolo*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2008, capp. 1, 2, 7.
- L. Amoroso, I*l battesimo dell'estetica*, Pisa: ETS, 1993
- W. Benjamin, *"Di alcuni motivi in Baudelaire"*, in Id. Angelus novus, Torino: Einaudi, 1995.
- N. Bourriaud, *L'exforma: Arte, ideologia e scarto*, Postmedia, 2020.

## Programme and references for non-attending students

Same as for attending students

## Assessment methods

Oral examination. Candidates will be able to choose between two formats:

1. Brief discussion of topic of their choice  (among the topics discussed within the course) + two questions
2. Three questions

*NB: During the Covid-19 pandemic, exams will be online, on the WebEx platform. A link will be made publicly available before the day of exminations.*

Assessment criteria: knowledge of topics and themes discussed in class; knowledge of texts; critical thinking;

terminological precision

## Office hours

please email to arrange

## Programme validity

Two academic years

## Course tutors and assistants

N/A