UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Aesthetics

2526-2-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 aesthetic judgement. The second part of the course will consider the transformations, role and functions 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 willc consider theories elaborated by W. Benjamin, L. Althusser and other contemporary thinkers such as for exampel Franco Berardi, Mark Fisher and Cinthya Cruz.

The course will be delivered in Italian

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

Lectures; audiovisual material; in-class seminars

Online and offline teaching materials

Slides and selected passages will be provided during the course.

Programme and references

Students are required to study

Kant, *Critica della capacità di giudizio*, a cura di L. Amoroso, Milano: BUR, 2013, limitatamente a Introduzione e dal §1 al §30.

and al least three texts in total to be chosen from the list below, choosing at least one text from each group:

Group A:

- W. Benjamin, *L'opera d'arte nell'epoca della sua riproducibilità tecnica,* Torino: Einaudi, 2014; [pdf del testo disponibile]
- W. Benjamin, "Di alcuni motivi in Baudelaire", in Id. *Angelus novus*, Torino: Einaudi, 1995. [pdf del testo disponibile]
- L. Althusser, "Il Piccolo, Bertolazzi e Brecht. Note per un teatro materialista", in Id., *Per Marx*, Roma: Editori Riuniti, 1972 [pdf del testo disponibile]

Group B:

- M. Fisher, *Realismo capitalista*, Roma: Nero Edizioni, 2018,
- F. Berardi Bifo, *Dopo il futuro. Dal futurismo al cyberpunk*, Roma: DeriveApprodi, 2013, selezione [pdf del testo disponibile] (va bene anche leggere la leggermente diversa versione inglese, *After the future*, di cui l'edizione italiana è una traduzione)
- C. Cruz, *Melanconia di Classe. Manifesto per la Working Class*, Roma: Blu Atlantide, 2022, limitatamente alle seguenti parti: Cap. 3 - Melanconia di classe, pp. 81-103; Cap. 7 - Lo spettro pp. 183-194; Conclusioni - pp. 213-229.

Erasmus students can read texts in English or other languages if they prefer.

Further readings (non mandatory)

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. [per inquadramento storico sintetico dell'estetica]

L. Amoroso, *Il battesimo dell'estetica*, Pisa: ETS, 1993 [su Baumgarten]

F. Menegoni, La «Critica del giudizio» di Kant. Introduzione alla lettura, Roma: Carocci, 2008

G. Gilloch, Walter Benjamin, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2008 [testo introduttivo al pensiero di Benjamin. Utili in particolare i capp. IV-VI]

S. Pippa,"A Heap of splinters on the floor. Ideology and disinterpellation in Althusser", https://www.softpowerjournal.com/a-heap-of-splinters-on-the-floor-ideology-and-disinterpellation-in-althusser/

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 in the course) + two questions
2. Three questions

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

The exam may be in Italian or English

The choice of the oral colloquium as exam mode is consistent with the objectives of the course, as it allows, thanks to a dialogical communicative situation, to interact with the student in order to assess his or her ability to critically understand the themes of the course, to analyse philosophy and to connect theory and practice.

The Dublin Descriptors will be used for assessment.

Low level (0-17/30): Not sufficient
Knowledge and Comprehension: The student demonstrates limited and fragmentary knowledge of the texts and topics covered, with misunderstandings of the texts proposed. Ability to Apply Knowledge: He/she is not able to verify on the texts the philosophical-political concepts learnt; he/she is very partially able to synthesise the contents of the texts presented, he/she is not able to contextualise and compare them. Autonomy of Judgement: lacks critical capacity and autonomy of judgement; depends exclusively on information provided by the teacher or the critical bibliography. Communication skills: has a stunted, approximate, stereotyped oral expression; shows little command of the specific language of the discipline. Learning abilities: has a limited ability to rework knowledge and link it to one's own experience.

Average level (18-24/30): Sufficient - Good
Knowledge and understanding: The student shows a general knowledge of the texts and topics covered, although with some gaps, imprecision on specific but non-essential aspects, or some misunderstandings in the analysis of texts. Ability to Apply Knowledge: He/she is able, albeit with some difficulty, to verify on texts the philosophical-political concepts learnt, at the teachers' prompting; he/she is able to summarise the texts presented in a discrete manner, to interpret, contextualise and compare them correctly. Autonomy of judgement: shows partial autonomy in formulating critical evaluations, often limited to the reiteration of others' judgements. Communication skills: has a clear and sufficiently precise expression, a fair command of the specific language of the discipline. Is aware of the need to use different linguistic registers according to communicative situations. Learning skills: has a fair ability to rework knowledge and relate it to own experience.

High level (25-30/30): Distinguished - Excellent
Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates thorough and solid knowledge of the texts and topics covered; understands and analyses the proposed texts without uncertainty. Ability to Apply Knowledge: The student is able to find in the texts, with confidence and effective personal observations, the philosophical-political concepts learned; with adequate argumentative property he/she is able to analyse, synthesise, interpret, contextualise and compare the texts presented, also making use of interdisciplinary links. Autonomy of Judgement: demonstrates excellent critical capacity, autonomy of judgement, originality in the analysis and interpretation of texts and problems. Communication skills: has clear, rigorous, fluent and appropriate expression. Is fully aware of the need to use different linguistic registers according to communicative situations. Ability to learn: Shows excellent/excellent independent learning skills, is able to revise knowledge effectively and relate it to own

experience.

NB: Students with PUOI must email the document to the teacher prior to the examination. In addition to accepting requests certified by PUOI, the lecturer is available for any clarification of lesson topics by appointment in person or remotely.

NB: Examination interviews will follow the order of registration. In the event of a large number of candidates, once enrolment has been completed, a
calendar with possible continuation days. In order to have a reliable timetable, students who decide not to take the interview are advised to cancel in good time or, once registration has closed, to inform the lecturer of their absence anyway.

Office hours

mercoledì, 12:15-13:15, in studio (fino a fine maggio)

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION