



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Visual Aesthetics

Subject	Cat-nbr	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
VIS	4002	2, 2010	ONC	1	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA005
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100300

STAFFING

Examiner: David Akenson
Moderator: Kyle Jenkins

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in BVAH or BCAH

SYNOPSIS

Debates related to questions of meaning, theory, history, and contemporary aesthetic studies and its context within the visual arts. This course introduces students to a consideration of these questions through a selection of essays drawn from particular areas such as critical theory, structuralism, post-structuralism, modernism, postmodernism, aesthetic analysis, post-colonialism, German idealism and current contemporary trends.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will have:

1. an ability to identify key problems in the interpretations of visual and/or written texts and images;
2. a demonstrated ability to discuss and evaluate a range of critical responses to these problems;
3. a demonstrated ability for reflexivity in their critical practice and how this relates to the course content.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. The nature of aesthetic value	14.00
2. Visual Aesthetics and reading systems	14.00
3. 'Ethics' in visual art	14.00

4.	The Social Dimension of Art	14.00
5.	Critical dialectics and the visual arts	14.00
6.	The Relationship between Aesthetics and Politics	14.00
7.	Contested terrains: history, artist and audience	16.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Adorno, T1996, *Aesthetic theory*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Mn.

Adorno, T & Bernstein, JM (trans)1991, *The culture industry: selected essays on mass culture*, Routledge, London.

Barthes, R1977, *Image, Music, Text*, Hill and Wang, New York.
(Also available online via library catalogue)

Barthes, R1988, *The Semiotic Challenge*, Blackwell, Oxford.

Beech, D2009, *Beauty: Documents of Contemporary Art*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Cutrofello, A2005, *Continental Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge, New York.

Debord, G1995, *The Society of the Spectacle*, Zone Books, New York.

De Duve, T1996, *Kant After Duchamp*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Foster, H1983, *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*, Bay Press, Seattle, Wash.

Halsall, F, Jansen, J and O'Connor, T (eds)2009, *Rediscovering Aesthetics: Transdisciplinary Voices From Art History, Philosophy, and Art Practice*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif.

Hegel, G.W.F1993, *Introductory Lectures on Aesthetics*, Penguin, London.

Hegel, G.W.F1994, *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Kant, I1986, *Critique of Judgment*, Hackett/Oxford University press, Oxford.

Kristeva, J1982, *Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art*, Oxford, Blackwell.

Kristeva, J1982, *The Powers of Horror: An Essay On Abjection*, Columbia University Press, New York.

Lacan, J1998, *Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*, Vintage,

Lacan, J. Ecrits2001, *A Selection*, Routledge, London.

Lechte, J2008, *Fifty Key Contemporary Thinkers From Structuralism to Post-Humanism*, 2nd edn, Routledge, London.

Marx, K*Marx's Capital, Volume 1*, Electric Book Company, London.

(available online via the USQ Library e-Book database eBrary)

Merleau-Ponty, M1962, *Phenomenology of Perception*, Humanities Press, New York.

Plato1987, *The Republic*, Penguin,

Popkin, RH (ed)1999, *The Pimlico History of Western Philosophy*, Pimlico, London.

Saussure, F1974, *Course in General Linguistics*, Fontana, London.

Zizek, S1993, *Tarrying With the Negative: Kant, Hegel, and the Critique of Ideology*, Duke University Press, Durham.

Zizek, S2008, *The Ticklish Subject: The Absent Centre of Political Ontology*, Verso, London.

Zizek, S*The Parallax View*, MIT Press,

(available online via the USQ Library e-Book database eBrary)

Zupancic, A2003, *The Shortest Shadow: Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Two*, MIT Press,

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Private Study	165.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ESSAY - 2000 WORDS	100	30	16 Aug 2010 (see note 1)
JOURNAL & NEWSGROUP PARTICIPAT	100	20	04 Oct 2010 (see note 2)
RESEARCH PAPER 3000 WDS	100	50	01 Nov 2010 (see note 3)

NOTES

1. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1, 2 and 3.
2. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1, 2 and 3.
3. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:

To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.

- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without extenuating circumstances and without prior approval, then a penalty of a maximum of 5% of the assigned mark may apply for each working day late, up to a maximum of 10 working days, at which time a mark of zero can be recorded for that assignment.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade, a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.
- 8 University Student Policies:
Students should read the USQ policies Definitions, Assessment and Student Academic Misconduct to avoid actions which might contravene University policies and practices. These policies can be found at the URL
http://policy.usq.edu.au/portal/custom/search/category/usq_document_policy_type/Student.1.html.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (e) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements. (f) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (g) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred

Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

- 2 Students are strongly advised to maintain regular contact with their supervisor.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 The assessment format and requirements will be established as part of the original contract, and ratified by the Visual Arts Course Team.
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