

ICS Calendar Title: Grace as an Aesthetic Concept
ICS Course Code: ICS 1121/2121
Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Smick
Term and Year: Thursdays, 9:30-12:30, Spring 2010
Last updated: January 28, 2010

Grace as an Aesthetic Concept

Course Description

For much of the Western art tradition, the concept of grace has been an important critical concept because of its ability to capture the often elusive quality of artistic affect. During the Renaissance, grace in fact served as the central critical concept for understanding art, and the achievement of grace in art was taken to be the highest artistic ideal. Often missing, however, from modern analyses of early modern grace are its theological foundations. The course will exam the concept of grace within its theological, philosophical, literary, and art theoretical contexts in an effort to understand more completely how art was thought to function in the early modern and Romantic periods. It will also consider the place of grace in the development of the Western aesthetics tradition.

Course Objectives

- Critical understanding of the art critical concept of grace
- Ability to think creatively and constructively across the realms of theology, philosophy, literature, and art theory
- Knowledge of leading debates

Course Requirements

- **Class participation.** Students will be expected to participate in class discussions on the required readings. **15% of final mark.**
- **Seminar presentation.** Students will be expected to lead class discussion in the form of a seminar presentation on certain of the required readings. **25% of final mark.**
- **Research paper on an approved topic.** Students at the Master's level will submit a 3000-4000 word research essay on an approved topic; essays by doctoral students will be 5000-7000 words. A one-page proposal with initial bibliography will be handed in **during class on February 27**. Final papers are due **Friday, May 1, 2009. 60% of final mark.**

Required Readings:

Smick, Rebekah. "Grazia in the Lives of Giorgio Vasari: Rhetorical Flourish or the Power of God?" in *Image Makers and Image Breakers*. Ed. J.A. Harris. Ottawa: Legas, 2003, pp. 119-135. [Robarts Library: B105 .I47 I43 2003]

Demetrius. *On Style*. In *Aristotle: The Poetics. Longinus: On the Sublime. Demetrius: On Style*. Trans. W. Rhys Roberts. Cambridge, Mass: Loeb, 1954. [St. Michael's College 1965 ed. PA3893 .P5 1965]

Dionysius of Halicarnassus. *On Literary Composition*. Trans. W. Rhys Roberts. London : MacMillan, 1910. [Victoria University, Pratt Library: PA3966 .D3 1910]

Pliny the Elder. *The Elder Pliny's Chapters on the History of Art*. Trans. K. Jex-Blake. Chicago: Ares, 1982. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: N5610 .P55 1896a]

Cicero. *De Oratore*. Trans. E.W. Sutton. Cambridge, Mass: Loeb, 1967. [Robarts Library: PA6296 .D6 1959 v.1-2 (Heinemann ed.)]

Paul, 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 6:23

Plotinus, "On Beauty. 1.6" *The Enneads*. Trans. Stephen McKenna. London: Penguin, 1991, pp. 45-55. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B693 .E53 M3 (1969 ed.)] ; Robarts Library: B693 .E53 M3 1991]

Gregory of Nyssa, *De instituto christiano*. In *Two Rediscovered Works of Ancient Christian Literature: Gregory of Nyssa and Macarius*. Trans. Werner Jaeger. Leiden: Brill, 1954. [Knox College Library: BR65 .G76 J28]

Pseudo-Dionysius. *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*. Trans. Colm Luibheid. New York: Paulist Press, 1987. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV4495 .C5 1987]

Alan of Lille. *The Plaint of Nature*. Trans. James J. Sheridan. Toronto: Pontifical Institute, 1980. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PA8240.A5 A6813 1980]

Alan of Lille. *Anticlaudianus; or the Good and Perfect Man*. Trans. James J. Sheridan. Toronto: Pontifical Institute, 1973. [St. Michael's College Library: PA8240 .A5 A6413 1973]

Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun. *The Romance of the Rose*. Trans. Charles Dahlberg. London: Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995. [Robarts Library: PQ1528 .A43 1995X]

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*. [ICS Library: BX1749 .T46 1964]

Dante Alighieri. "Cantos I and II." *Inferno*. Trans. Mark Musa. London: Penguin, [Victoria University, Pratt Library: PQ4315.2 .M775 1995]

Dante Alighieri. "Canto XXXIII." *Paradiso*. Trans. Mark Musa. London: Penguin, [Robarts Library: PQ4315.4 .M8 1984]

Marsilio Ficino. *Commentary on Plato's "Symposium on Love."* Trans. Jayne Sears. Dallas, TX.: Spring Publications, 1985. [St. Michael's College Library: B785 .F43 D3913 1985]

Francesco Colonna. *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili: The Strife of Love in a Dream*. Trans. Joscelyn Godwin. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1999. [Robarts Library: PQ4619 .C9 E5 1592AB]

Smick, Rebekah. "Touch in the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*: The Sensual Ethics of Architecture." In *Sensible Flesh: On Touch in Early Modern Culture*. Ed. Elizabeth D. Harvey. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003, pp. 205-223. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BF275 .S46 2003 ; Robarts Library: BF 275 .S46 2003X]

Vasari, Giorgio. *The Lives of the Artists*. Trans. George Bull. London: Penguin, 1965. [Victoria University, Pratt Library: N6922 .V2613 1987a v.1-2]

Castiglione, Baldessare. *The Book of the Courtier*. Trans. George Bull. London: Penguin, 1967. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BJ1602 .C573]

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queen*. Ed. Thomas P. Roche. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1978.

Pope, Alexander. *An Essay on Criticism*. Ed. S.L. Paul. Karnal: Siddhartha, 1998.

Schelling, Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von. "The Evolution of the Graceful in Art." *On the Relation of the Plastic Arts to Nature*. Ed. O.B. Hardison, Jr., In *Modern Continental Literary Criticism*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1962, pp. 26-28. [St. Michael's College Library: PN501 .H27]

Schiller, Friedrich. "On Grace and Dignity." In *Schiller's "On Grace and Dignity" in its Cultural Context*. Trans. Jane V. Curran and Christophe Fricker. Rochester: Camden House, 2005, pp. 123-154. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B3086 .S33 U2237 2005]

Recommended Readings:

Abel, Donald C. "The Doctrine of Synergism in Gregory of Nyssa's *De Instituto Christiano*." *Thomist; a Speculative Quarterly Review*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (July 1981), pp. 430-448.

Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1953. [Robarts Library: PN769 .R7 A2]

Bogue, Ronald. "The Meaning of Grace in Pope's Aesthetic." *PMLA*, Vol. 94, No. 3 (May, 1979), pp. 434-448.

Bohning, Elizabeth. "Goethe's and Schiller's Interpretation of Beauty." *The German Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Nov., 1949), pp. 185-194.

Cave, Terence. "Enargeia: Erasmus and the Rhetoric of Presence in the Sixteenth Century"

Garin, Eugenio. *Italian Humanism: Philosophy and Civic Life in the Renaissance*. Trans. Peter Munz. Oxford: Blackwell, 1965. [Victoria University, Pratt Library: DG533 .G323 1965a]

Gilman, Donald. "Dramatic Debate: Vividness and Verve in Thomas More's *A Dialogue Concerning Heresies*." *Moreana*, Vol. 40, Nos. 153-154 (March, 2003), pp. 27-47.

Gilson, Étienne. *Dante the Philosopher*. Trans. D. Moore. London: Sheed and Ward, 1948. [Regis College Library: PQ4412 .G4513 1948]

Harrison, Verna. *Grace and Human Freedom According to St. Gregory of Nyssa*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1992. [Knox College Library: BT761.2 .H38 1992]

Lonergan, Bernard. *Grace and Freedom: Operative Grace in the Thought of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Ed. F. Crowe and R. Doran. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT761.2 .L55 2000]

Manieri, Alessandra. *L'immagine poetica nella teoria degli antichi: phantasia ed enargeia*. Pisa: Istituti Editoriali, 1998. [Robarts Library: PA3093 .M27 1998]

McGrath, Alister E. *Iustitia Dei: A History of the Christian Doctrine of Justification*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT764.3 .M43 2005]

Monk, Samuel. "A Grace Beyond the Reach of Art." *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Apr., 1944), pp. 131-150.

Norhrnberg, James. *The Analogy of the Faerie Queen*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. [Robarts Library: PR2358 .N6]

Rubin, Patricia. *Giorgio Vasari, Art and History*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1995. [Robarts Library: N7483 .V37 R83 1995X - Short Term Loan]

Saccone, Eduardo. "Grazia, Sprezzatura, Affettazione in the Courtier." In *Castiglione: The Ideal and the Real in Renaissance Culture*. Ed. R. Hanning and D. Rosand. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1983.

[Robarts Library: BJ1604 .C6 C37]

Sohm, Philip. "Gendered Style in Italian Art Criticism from Michelangelo to Malvasia." *Renaissance Quarterly* Summers, David. *The Judgment of Sense*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, [Victoria University, CRRS collection: BH39 .S913 1990]

_____. *Michelangelo and the Language of Art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981 [Robarts Library: N6923 .B9 S86]

Tartakiewicz, Wladyslaw. *History of Aesthetics*. Vol. 3. *Modern Aesthetics*. Trans. Adam and Anna Czerniawski. London: Continuum, 2005. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH81 .T351 v.3]

_____, "The Great Theory of Beauty and Its Decline"

Trout, John M. *The Voyage of Prudence: the Worldview of Alan of Lille*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1979. [Robarts Library: PA8240 .A5 T7]

Tuveson, Ernest Lee. *The Imagination as a Means of Grace: Locke and the Aesthetics of Romanticism*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1963. [Robarts Library: B1297 .T8]

Weisgerber, Jean. "Un Panachage Rococo: Pope, Marivaux, Wieland et la Philosophie de la Grace." Budapest: Akademiai Kiado, 1997, pp. 37-61.

Wittkower, Rudolph. "Genius: Individualism in Art and Artists." *Dictionary of the History of Ideas* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B823.3 .D5 v. 1-5]

Reading Schedule:

1. Jan. 7	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Smick, "Grazia in the Lives of Giorgio Vasari: Rhetorical Flourish or the Power of God?"
2. Jan. 14	Rhetorical, Biblical, and Mystical Grace <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demetrius, <i>On Style</i>, III. 128-150; Dionysius of Halicarnassus, <i>On Literary Composition</i>, XI (121-123, 135); Dionysius of Halicarnassus, <i>Lysias</i>, X, XI; Pliny the Elder, XXXV, 36, 79ff; Cicero, <i>De Oratore</i>, I, 5, 17; Quintilian, <i>Institutio</i>, VI, 111, 18● Paul, 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 6:23● Plotinus, "On Beauty," <i>Ennead</i> 1.6
3. Jan. 21	Early Christian <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gregory of Nyssa, <i>De instituto christiano</i>● Dionysius the Areopagite, tba
4. Jan. 28	The Work of Prudence <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Alan of Lille, <i>The Complaint of Nature</i> and <i>The Anticlaudianus</i>● Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, <i>The Romance of the Rose</i>

5. Feb. 4	<p>The Aristotelian Habitus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i>, I-II, 109, 1, 9 ad 2; 110, 1, 2 ad 2, 3 ad 3; 112, 1, 2; 113, 1 and 7
6. Feb. 11	<p>High Fantasy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dante Alighieri, <i>Inferno</i>, Cantos I and II; <i>Paradiso</i>, Canto XXXIII
Feb. 15-19	<p>Reading Week – no class</p>
7. Feb. 25	<p>Love, Grace and Architecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marsilio Ficino, <i>De Amore</i> ● Francesco Colonna, <i>Hypnerotomachia Poliphili</i> ● Smick, “Touch in the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili,” <i>Sensible Flesh</i>
8. Mar. 4	<p>Art Manner and Manners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Giorgio Vasari, <i>The Lives of the Artists</i> ● Baldessare Castiglione, <i>The Book of the Courtier</i>
9. Mar. 11	<p>A Grace Beyond the Reach of Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edmund Spenser, <i>The Fairie Queen</i>, VI, X ● Alexander Pope, <i>An Essay on Criticism</i>
10. Mar. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Meeting (Renaissance Society of America)
11. Mar. 25	<p>Romantic Grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling, <i>The Evolution of the Graceful in Art</i> ● Friedrich Schiller, <i>On Grace and Dignity</i>

12. Apr. 1

Wrap Up