

ICS Calendar Title: Beauty: Theology, Ethics, or Aesthetics?

ICS Course Code: ICS 220105 F10

Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Smick, rsmick@icscanada.edu

Term: Thursdays, 9:30am-12:30pm, Fall 2010

Course Description: Is beauty simply “in the eye of the beholder” or is it something more? Is it a way to God, a moral precept, or the specific locus for a unique kind of pleasure? This course examines a variety of subjective and objective views of beauty in the history of Western philosophy and theology from antiquity to the present (e.g. in the thought of Plato, Augustine, Aquinas, Kant, Hegel, Scarry and Von Balthasar). It will also consider the implications of these views of beauty for the production of the visual arts, music, and literary culture in Western religion and society.

Course Objectives:

- Critical understanding of the ways beauty has been described in the Western tradition
- Ability to think creatively and constructively across the domains of theology, philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, and art practice
- Knowledge of leading debates on the place of beauty in theology, ethics and aesthetics

Course Requirements:

- **Class participation.** Students will be expected to participate in class discussions on the required readings. **20% of final mark.**
- **Seminar presentation.** Students will be expected to lead one class discussion in the form of seminar presentation on certain of the required readings. **30% 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 November 4**. Final papers are due **Friday, January 28, 2011. 50% of final mark.**

Required Readings:

Plato. *Hippias Major*. In *Complete Works*. Ind.: Hackett, 1997, pp. 898-922. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B358 .C3 1997)

_____. *Phaedrus*. 250b-257b. In *Complete Works*. Ind.: Hackett, 1997. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B358.C3 1997)

Vitruvius. *Ten Books on Architecture*. Trans. Ingrid Rowland. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Book III, chapter 1 (ROBA: NA2515 .V613 1999)

Plotinus. *Enneads*. Trans. A.H. Armstrong. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1966-1988. Book I.6 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PA4363 .A2 1966 v.1-3)

Augustine. *De natura boni*. Trans. A. Anthony Moon. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 1955. Chapter 3. (ROBA: BT1410. A8 1955)
_____. *Aurelius Augustinus: De musica liber VI: a critical edition with a translation and an introduction*. Trans. Martin Jacobsson. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell International, 2002. (Music Library: ML168. A946 2002)

Pseudo-Dionysius. *The Divine Names*. In *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*. Trans. Colm Luibheid. New York: Paulist Press, 1987. Chapter 4, 1-11. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV4495 .C5 1987)

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae*. In *The Summa Theologiae of Saint Thomas Aquinas*. Scotts Valley, Ca.: Novantiqua, 2008. I, q. 5, a. 4; I, q. 9, 39, a. 8; I-II, q. 27, a. 1. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BX1749 .T46 1964 – not the same edition as cited)

Dante Alighieri. *Inferno*. Trans. Mark Musa. New York: Penguin, 1986. Cantos I; II; XI, 97. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: ON ORDER)
_____. *Paradiso*. Trans. Mark Musa. New York: Penguin, 1986. Cantos I; VII, 64; XIII, 76; XXX; XXXIII. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: ON ORDER)
_____. *Convivio*. Trans. R. Lansing. New York: Garland, 1990. II, 1; II, Canzone 1, 53-61; III, 15; IV, 25. (SMC: PQ4310 .C213 1990)

Ficino, Marsilio. *Commentary on Plato's Symposium on Love*. Trans. Jayne Sears. Dallas: Spring, 1985. Speech I, 4; Speech V, 3-7. (ROBA: B785 .F43 D3913 1985)

Castiglione, Baldessare. *The Book of the Courtier*. Trans. George Bull. New York: Penguin, 1967. Book 1, pp. 99-104; Book 3, pp. 324-345. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BJ1602 .C573)

Dolce, Lodovico. *Aretino*. In *Dolce's Aretino and Venetian Art Theory of the Cinquecento*. Trans. Mark Roskill. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000. Pp. 117-119; 129-143; 157-161; 171-177. (ROBA: ND1130 .D65 R6 2000)

Hume, David. *Of the Standard of Taste*. In *Essays, Moral, Political and Literary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963, pp. 231-255. (ROBA: B1475 1963)
_____. *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*. Ed. I.A. Selby-Bigge. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1975, tba (ROBA: B1480 1975)

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Judgment*. Trans. Werner S. Pluhar. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987. Book I, 1-22; Book II, 59. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B2783 .E5 B52)

Hegel, *Aesthetics. Lectures on Fine Art*, trans. T.M. Knox. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975. Part I, Chapters 1 and 2. (ROBA: N64 .H413 v.1-2)

Schopenhauer, Arthur. *The World as Will and Representation*. Trans. E.F.J. Payne. New York: Dover, 1969. Vol. I, 38 and 39. (Robarts Call Number: B3138. E5 P32 1969)

Clement Greenberg. "Review of Exhibitions of the American Abstract Artists, Jacques Lipchitz, and Jackson Pollock." In *The Collected Essays and Criticism, Volume 2: Arrogant Purpose, 1945-1949*. Ed. John O'Brian. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. (ROBA: N7445.2 .G74 1986 v.2)

Scarry, Elaine. *On Beauty and Being Just*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH39 .S322 1999X)

Balthasar, Hans Urs von. *The Glory of the Lord: A Theological Aesthetics. I: Seeing the Form*. Trans: Joseph Fessio and John Riches. San Francisco: Ignatius press, 1982, Ch. 1, para. 7, 117-127. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT78 .B2613 v.1)

Viladesau, Richard. *Theological Aesthetics: God in Imagination, Beauty, and Art*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999, Ch. 1, 23-4; Ch. 2, 70-1; Ch. 4, 138-9; Ch. 6, 210-3. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 V55 1999)

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *A New Critique of Theoretical Thought*. Trans. D.H. Freeman and W.S. Young. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1969. Vol. II, 128-139. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B4051 .D64 W5513 1969 v.2)

Seerveld, Calvin. *A Christian Critique of Art and Literature*. Toronto: Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship, 1977, pp. 32-45. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 S44 1977)

Seerveld, Calvin. *Rainbows for the Fallen World*. Toronto: Tuppence Press, 1980, pp. 116-125. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH39 .S432 1980)

Recommended Readings:

Begbie, Jeremy. *Voicing Creation's Praise: Towards a Theology of the Arts*. London: T & T Clark, 1991. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 B44)

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

Burch Brown, Frank. *Religious Aesthetics: A Theological Study of Making and Meaning*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1989. (BR115 .A8 B78 1989)

Coleman, Francis, "Introduction" and "The Analysis of the Beautiful," in *The Harmony of Reason: A Study in Kant's Aesthetics*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1974, 3-20 and 21-84. (ROBA: B2799 .A4 C63)

Danto, Arthur C. *The Abuse of Beauty: Aesthetics and the Concept of Art*. Chicago and LaSalle: Open Court, 2003. (Regis College Library: BH39 .D36 2003)

Dengerink-Chaplin, Adrienne. "Art and Embodiment: Biological and Phenomenological Contributions to Understanding Beauty and the Aesthetic." *Contemporary Aesthetics* (June 30) 2005.

Dooyeweerd, Herman. *A New Critique of Theoretical Thought*. Trans. D.H. Freeman and W.S. Young. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1969. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B4051 .D64 W5513 1969 v.1-4)

Dunaway, John M. and Springstead, Eric O., eds. *The Beauty that Saves: Essays on Aesthetics and Language in Simone Weil*. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1996. (ROBA: B2430 .W474 B43 1996X)

Eco, Umberto. *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*. Trans. Hugh Bredin. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH131 .E26 1986)

Eco, Umberto. *The Aesthetics of Thomas Aquinas*. Trans. Hugh Bredin. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1988. (ROBA: B765 .T54 E3313 1988)

Eco, Umberto. *History of Beauty*. Trans. by Alastair McEwen. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2004. (ROBA (Short term loan) BH81 .H57 2004)

Ellsmere, Patricia K. "Augustine on beauty, art and God." In *Augustine on Music: a series of interdisciplinary essays*. Ed. by Richard R. La Croix. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1988. (SMC: ML3849 .A9 1988)

Evdokimov, Paul. *The Art of the Icon: A Theology of Beauty*. Trans. Seven Bigham. Redondo Beach, CA: Oakwood Publications, 1990. (ROBA: N8187 .E8513 1990)

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays*. Trans. Nicholas Walker. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B3248 .G34 G33 1986)

Gawronski, Raymond. "The Beauty of the Cross: The Theological Aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar." *Logos* 5.3 (Summer 2002) 184-206.

Gill, Theodore A. "Barth and Mozart." *Theology Today* (October, 1986) 403-411.

Guyer, Paul. *Values of Beauty: Historical Essays in Aesthetics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. (ROBA: BH81 .G89 2005)

Harrison, Carol. *Beauty and Revelation in the Thought of Saint Augustine*. Oxford: Clarendon press, 1992. (ROBA: BR65 .A9 H35 1992)

Leeuw, Geraardus van der. *Sacred and Profane Beauty*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Wilson, 1963. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: N72 .L413)

Martin, James Alfred, Jr. *Beauty and Holiness: The Dialogue between Aesthetics and Religion*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1990. (ROBA: BL65 .A4 M35 1990)

Meyer-Baer, Kathi, "Psychologic and Ontologic ideas in Augustine's *De Musica*," *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 2.3 (March 1953), 224-230.

Nehamas, Alexander. *Only a Promise of Happiness: The Place of Beauty in the World of Art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007. (ROBA: BH39 .N378 2007X)

O'Connell, Robert J., *Art and the Christian Intelligence in St. Augustine*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1978. (ROBA: B655 .Z7 O26)

O'Donoghue, Noel. "A Theology of Beauty." In *The Analogy of Beauty: The Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar*. Ed. John Riches. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1986, 1-10. (ROBA: BX4705 .B163 A75 1986)

Rookmaaker, Hans. "Modern Art and Gnosticism." *Zeitschrift für Aesthetik und allgemeine Kunstwissenschaft* 18 (1973), 162-174.

Scarry, Elaine. *On Beauty and Being Just*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH39 .S322 1999X)

Seerveld, Calvin. *A Christian Critique of Art and Literature*. Toronto: Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship, 1977. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A7 S44 1977)

Seerveld, Calvin. *Rainbows for the Fallen World*. Toronto: Tuppence Press, 1980. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH39 .S432 1980)

Seerveld, Calvin. "The Relation of the Arts to the Presentation of Truth." In *Truth and Reality*. Braamfontein: De Jong, 1971, 161-175.
<<http://www.contempaesthetics.org/newvolume/pages/article.php?articleID=291>>

Sherry, Patrick. *Spirit and Beauty: An Introduction to Theological Aesthetics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 S53 2002)

Sider, David. "Plato's Early Aesthetics: 'The Hippias Major'." *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*; 35.4 (June 1977), 465-468.

Stolnitz, Jerome. "'Beauty': Some Stages in the History of an Idea." *Journal of the History of Ideas*. Vol. 22, no. 2 (Apr.-Jun., 1961), 185-204.

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

Tatarkiewicz, Wladyslaw. "The Great Theory of Beauty and Its Decline." *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 31 (1972), 165-180.

Thompson, John. "Barth and Balthasar: An Ecumenical Dialogue." In *The Beauty of Christ: An Introduction to the Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar*. Eds. Bede McGregor and Tomas Norris. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994, 171-192. (ROBA: BX4705 .B163 B43 1994)

Reading Schedule

1. Sept. 16	Introduction
2. Sept. 23	Plato's Beauty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hippias Major</i> • <i>Phaedrus</i>, 250b-257b
3. Sept. 30	Symmetry Plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitruvius, <i>Ten Books on Architecture</i>, Book III, chapter 1 • Plotinus, "On Beauty," <i>Ennead</i> 1.6; 6.7.22
4. Oct. 7	Early Christian Beauty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustine, <i>De natura boni</i>, Chapter 3; <i>De musica liber VI</i> • Pseudo-Dionysius, <i>The Divine Names</i>, Chapter 4, 1-11
5. Oct. 14	Scholastic Beauty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> (see above) • Dante, <i>Divina Commedia</i>, <i>Convivio</i> (see above)
6. Oct. 21	Renaissance Beauty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsilio Ficino, <i>Commentary on Plato's Symposium</i>, Speech I, 4; Speech V, 3-7 • Baldessare Castiglione, <i>The Book of the Courtier</i> (see above) • Lodovico Dolce, <i>Aretino</i> (see above)

Oct.25-29	Reading Week – no class
7. Nov. 4	<p>The Standard of Taste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, <i>Of the Standard of Taste; An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> (see above)
8. Nov. 11	<p>Enlightenment Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>, Book I, 1-22; Book II, 59
9. Nov. 18	<p>Romantic Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hegel, <i>Aesthetics. Lectures on Fine Art</i>. Part I, Chapters 1 and 2 • Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i>, I, 38 and 39
10. Nov. 25	<p>The Abuse of Beauty: the Twentieth Century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clement Greenberg, <i>Review of Exhibitions</i> (see above)
11. Dec. 2	<p>Beauty Retrieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine Scarry, <i>On Beauty and Being Just</i>
12. Dec. 9	<p>Theologies of Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Balthasar, <i>The Glory of the Lord</i>, Ch. 1, para. 7, 117-127 • Viladesau, <i>Theological Aesthetics</i>, Ch. 1, 23-4; Ch. 2, 70-1; Ch. 4, 138-9; Ch. 6, 210-3
13. Dec. 16	<p>Beauty in the Reformed Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dooyeweerd, <i>New Critique</i>, Vol. II, pp. 128-139 • Seerveld, <i>Rainbows for a Fallen World</i>, pp. 116-125; <i>A Christian Critique of Art and Literature</i>, pp. 32-45