

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: **PHI 7\*\***

2. Course Title: **Kant's *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment***

3. Per Week Lectures: **3** (L), Tutorial: N.A. (T), Laboratory: N.A. (P), Additional Hours [0-2]: N.A. (A).

Credits (3\*L+2\*T+P+A): **9** Duration of Course: **Full Semester** / ~~Modular~~

4. Proposing Department/IDP: **Humanities and Social Sciences**

Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course: --

Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course: --

5. Proposing Instructor(s): **Prashant Bagad**

6. Course Description:

**A) Objectives:**

The course investigates a foundational work in philosophical aesthetics, Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment* (Part One of the *Critique of Judgment*).

The course closely and critically considers Kant's influential treatment of such important questions as the following: What is beauty? Is beauty a property of the object or does it lie in the beholder's eye? Is taste innate or acquired? If I find something beautiful, can I expect all of you to agree with me? It is said there is ordinary perception and there is imaginative perception—what's the difference? Are the pleasures given by a soothingly pretty flower and a scarily howling storm of the same kind? What is the ground of debates about beautiful nature or meaningful artworks? What makes nature's beauty different from art's beauty? What does it mean to say that a poem or a painting is profound? Why do some artworks invite multiple readings or become classics? Is aesthetic experience a form of consumption? Is there really an aesthetic way of encountering the world that is distinct from practical, intellectual, or moral engagement with it—don't these approaches or spheres intersect? Can an aesthetic experience be a result of conscious effort or is it received like a gift?

The course analyses and interrogates Kant's concepts of aesthetic judgment, disinterested delight, subjective universality of aesthetic assessment, fine art, genius, aesthetic ideas, the beautiful and the sublime, purposiveness without purpose, form, reflection and

contemplation in aesthetic experience, and the spontaneous and playful aesthetic mode of cognitive faculties.

While philosophically re-enacting his views, the course engages in a contemporary conversation with Kant's work.

**B) Contents** (preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles):

No	Broad Title	Topics	Number of Lectures
1	Analytic of the Beautiful	Disinterested liking; agreeable, good and beautiful; universality of subjective judgment; purposiveness without purpose; necessity of judgment of taste (Sections 1-22)	16
2	Analytic of the Sublime	Concept of the sublime, mathematical and dynamic sublime, the beautiful and the sublime (Sections 23-30)	8
3	Fine Art	Fine art, genius, aesthetic ideas, art and nature, art and craft, taste and genius (Sections 43-54)	10
4	Deduction of Pure Aesthetic Judgment	Peculiarities of judgment of taste, 'common sense', kinds of interest in beauty (Sections 31-42)	4
5	Dialectic of Aesthetic Judgment	Antinomy of taste: Beauty, judgment, concepts (Sections 55-60)	2

**C) Pre-requisites**, if any (examples: a- PSO201A, or b- PSO201A or equivalent): None

**D) Short summary** for including in the Courses of Study Booklet:

The course is centered around a foundational work in philosophical aesthetics, Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*. The course considers Kant's influential treatment of such important questions as the following: Is beauty a property of the object or does it lie in the beholder's eye? If I find something beautiful, can I expect all of you to agree with me? Are the pleasures given by a flower and a storm of the same kind? What is the ground of debates about beautiful nature or meaningful artworks? What does it mean to say that a poem or a painting is profound? Is aesthetic experience a form of consumption? Is there really an aesthetic way of encountering the world that is distinct from practical, intellectual, or moral

engagement with it? The course analyses and interrogates Kant's concepts of aesthetic judgment, disinterested delight, subjective universality of aesthetic assessment, fine art, genius, aesthetic ideas, the beautiful and the sublime, and purposiveness without purpose. While philosophically re-enacting his views, the course engages in a contemporary conversation with Kant's work.

## **7. Recommended books:**

### *Critique of Judgment*

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Judgment*. Translated by Werner S. Pluhar. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of the Power of Judgment*. Translated by Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Judgment*. Translated by J. C. Meredith. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Judgment*. Translated by J. H. Bernard. New York: Hafner, 1964.

### Kant's Earlier Writing on Aesthetics

Kant, Immanuel. *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime and Other Writings*. Edited by Patrick Frierson and Paul Guyer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

### Introductions to *Critique of Judgment*

Burnham, Douglas. *Introduction to Kant's Critique of Judgment*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000.

Hughes, Fiona. *Kant's Critique of Aesthetic Judgment: A Reader's Guide*. London: Continuum, 2010.

Kemal, Salim. *Kant's Aesthetic Theory: An Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1992.

McCloskey, Mary. *Kant's Aesthetic*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1987.

Wenzel, Christian Helmut. *Introduction to Kant's Aesthetic Theory: Core Concepts and Problems*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.

Wicks, Robert. *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant on Judgment*. London: Routledge, 2007.

### Entries in *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*

Kelly, Micheal (ed.). *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Kant, Immanuel: 1. Survey of Thought 2. Kant on Beauty 3. Kant on the Sublime 4. Kant on Nature and Art 5. History of Kantian Aesthetics 6. Kant and Art History 7. Kant and Hermeneutics 8. Feminism and Kantian Aesthetics 9. Kant, Duchamp and Judgment.

### Entries in Online Encyclopaedias

Burnham, Douglas. "Immanuel Kant: Aesthetics". *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Edited by James Fieser and Braddley Dowden. URL = <https://iep.utm.edu/kantaest/>

Ginsborg, Hannah. "Kant's Aesthetics and Teleology". *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2022 Edition), Edited by Edward Zalta and Uri Nodelman. URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2022/entries/kant-aesthetics/>

Zangwill, Nick. "Aesthetic Judgment". *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2024 Edition), Edited by Edward Zalta and Uri Nodelman. URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2024/entries/aesthetic-judgment/>

### Introductions to Kant's Philosophy

Guyer, Paul. *Kant*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Scruton, Roger. *Kant: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Willschek, Marcus. *Kant: A Revolution in Thinking*. Translated by Peter Lewis. Harvard University Press, 2025

Wood, Allen. *Kant*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.

### Popular Primer

Wicks, Robert. *Kant: A Complete Introduction*. London: Hachette, 2014.

### European Aesthetics

Bernstein, J. M. (ed.). *Classic and Romantic German Aesthetics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Bowie, Andrew. *Aesthetics and Subjectivity: From Kant to Nietzsche* (second edition). Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003.

Hammermeister, Kai. *German Aesthetic Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Wicks, Robert. *European Aesthetics: A Critical Introduction from Kant to Derrida*. London: Oneworld, 2013.

#### Companions, Dictionaries, Handbooks

Bird, Graham (ed.). *Companion to Kant*. Malden: Blackwell, 2006.

Caygill, Howard. *Kant Dictionary*. London: Wiley, 2017.

Guyer, Paul (ed.). *Cambridge Companion to Kant*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Marino, Stephano and Terzi, Pietro (eds.). *Kant's Critique of Aesthetic Judgment in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Companion to its Main Interpretations*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

#### Critical Interpretations

Adorno, Theodore. *Aesthetic Theory*. London: Continuum, 1997.

Allison, Henry. *Kant's Theory of Taste: A Reading of the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Ameriks, Karl. *Interpreting Kant's Critiques*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2003.

Berger, Larissa. *Disinterested Pleasure and Beauty: Perspectives from Kantian and Contemporary Aesthetics*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023.

Bowie, Andrew. *Aesthetic Dimensions of Modern Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Bruno, Paul. *Kant's Concept of Genius: Its Origin and Function in the Third Critique*. London: Continuum, 2011.

Budd, Malcolm. *Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005.

Cassirer, H. W. *Commentary on Kant's Critique of Judgment*. London: Methuen, 1938.

Caygill, Howard. *Art of Judgment*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989.

Chadwick, Ruth (ed.). *Immanuel Kant: Critical Assessments, Volume 4: Kant's Critique of Judgment*. London: Routledge, 1992.

Chaouli, Michel. *Thinking with Kant's Critique of Judgment*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2017.

Chaouli, Michel. *Something Speaks to Me: Where Criticism Begins*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2024.

Cheetham, Mark. *Kant, Art and Art History: Moments of Discipline*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Clewis, Robert. *Origins of Kant's Aesthetics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

- Cohen, Ted and Guyer, Paul (eds.). *Essays in Kant's Aesthetics*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1982.
- Coleman, Francis. *Harmony of Reason: A Study of Kant's Aesthetics*. London: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1974.
- Corse, Sandra. *Craft Objects, Aesthetic Contexts: Kant, Heidegger, and Adorno on Craft*. London: Bloomsbury, 2009
- Cooper, Andrew. *Tragedy of Philosophy: Kant's Critique of Judgment and the Project of Aesthetics*. New York: State University of New York Press, 2016.
- Crawford, Donald. *Kant's Aesthetic Theory*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1974.
- Crowther, Paul. *Kantian Aesthetic: From Knowledge to the Avant-Garde*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Derrida, Jacques. "Economimesis". Translated by Robert Klein. *Diacritics*, vol. 11, n. 2, Summer 1981, pp. 2-25.
- Derrida, Jacques. *Truth in Painting*. Translated by Geoff Bennington and Ian McLeod. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1987.
- Dickie, George. *Century of Taste: The Philosophical Odyssey of Taste in the Eighteenth Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology of the Aesthetic*. Malden: Blackwell, 1990.
- Friedlander, Eli. *Expressions of Judgment: An Essay on Kant's Aesthetics*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method* (second revised edition). Translated by Joel Weinshiemer and Donald Marshall. London: Continuum, 2004.
- Gasche, Rodolphe. *Idea of Form: Rethinking Kant's Aesthetics*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003.
- Ginsborg, Hannah. *Normativity of Nature: Essays on Kant's Critique of Judgment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Ginsborg, Hannah. *Role of Taste in Kant's Theory of Cognition*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1990.
- Guyer, Paul. *Kant and the Claims of Taste* (second edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Guyer, Paul. *Kant and the Experience of Freedom: Essays on Aesthetics and Morality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Guyer, Paul (ed.). *Kant's Critique of the Power of Judgment: Critical Essays*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.
- Guyer, Paul. *Values of Beauty: Historical Essays in Aesthetics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

- Kalar, Brent. *Demands of Taste in Kant's Aesthetics*. London: Continuum, 2006.
- Kemal, Salim. *Kant and Fine Art: An Essay on Kant and the Philosophy of Fine Art and Culture*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.
- Kirwan, James. *Aesthetic in Kant: A Critique*. London: Continuum, 2004.
- Kneller, Jane. *Kant and the Power of Imagination*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Kuplen, Mojca. *Beauty, Ugliness and Free Play of Imagination: An Approach to Kant's Aesthetics*. Cham: Springer, 2015.
- Kuplen, Mojca. *Kant's Aesthetic Cognitivism: On the Value of Art*. London: Bloomsbury, 2023.
- Makkai, Katalin. *Kant's Critique of Taste: The Feeling of Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- Makkreel, Rudolph. *Imagination and Interpretation in Kant: The Hermeneutical Import of the Critique of Judgment*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1990.
- Mensch, Jennifer (ed.). *Kant and the Feeling of Life: Beauty and Nature in the Critique of Judgment*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2024.
- Murray, Bradley. *Possibility of Culture: Pleasure and Moral Development in Kant's Aesthetics*. Malden: Wiley, 2015.
- Pillow, Kirk. *Sublime Understanding: Aesthetic Reflection in Kant and Hegel*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000.
- Rogerson, Kenneth. *Kant's Aesthetics: The Roles of Form and Expression*. New York: University Press of America, 1986.
- Rogerson, Kenneth. *Problem of Free Harmony in Kant's Aesthetics*. New York: State University of New York Press, 2008.
- Rueger, Alexander. *Kant on Pleasure and Judgment: A Developmental and Interpretive Account*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025.
- Sallis, John. *Kant and the Spirit of Critique*. Edited by Richard Rojcewicz. Bloomington: Indian University Press, 2020.
- Savile, Anthony. *Kantian Aesthetics Pursued*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1993.
- Savile, Anthony. *Aesthetic Reconstructions: Seminal Writings of Lessing, Kant and Schiller*. London: Basil Blackwell, 1987.
- Schaper, Eva. *Studies in Kant's Aesthetics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1979.
- Simmel, Georg. *Essays on Art and Aesthetics*. Edited by Austin Harrington. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2020.
- Tinguely, Joseph. *Kant and the Reorientation of Aesthetics: Finding the World*. New York: Routledge, 2017.

- Uehling, Theodore. *Notion of Form in Kant's Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*. The Hague: Mouton, 1965.
- Wayne, Michael. *Red Kant: Aesthetics, Marxism, and the Third Critique*. London: Bloomsbury, 2016.
- Wilson, Ross. *Subjective Universality in Kant's Aesthetics*. Oxford: Peter Lang, 2007.
- Zammito, John. *Genesis of Kant's Critique of Judgment*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1992.
- Zuckert, Rachel. *Kant on Beauty and Biology: An Interpretation of the Critique of Judgment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

### The Sublime

- Battersby, Christine. *Sublime, Terror and Human Difference*. London: Routledge, 2007.
- Clewis, Robert. *Kantian Sublime and the Revelation of Freedom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Crowther, Paul. *Kantian Sublime: From Morality to Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Doran, Robert. *Theory of the Sublime from Longinus to Kant*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Lyotard, Jean-Francois. *Lessons on the Analytic of the Sublime*. Translated by Elizabeth Rottenberg. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994.
- Merritt, Melissa. *Sublime*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Shaw, Philip. *Sublime*. London: Routledge, 2006.

### Feminist Critique of Kantian Aesthetics

- Battersby, Christine. *Gender and Genius: Towards a Feminist Aesthetics*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.
- Schott, Robin (ed.). *Feminist Interpretations of Kant*. University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.

### Sociology and Kantian Aesthetics

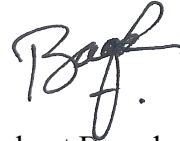
- Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Translated by Richard Nice. London: Routledge, 1984.
- Corrigan, Peter. *Sociology of Consumption: An Introduction*. London: Sage, 1997.
- Swingewood, Alan. *Sociological Poetics and Aesthetic Theory*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1987.



Journal

*Kantian Review*

8. Any other remarks: --



Dated: 23 January 2026

Proposer: Prashant Bagad

Dated:

DPGC Convener:

The course is approved / not approved

Chair, SPGC

Dated: