

MIDTERM ESSAY

Choose one of the following three questions.

When you submit your assignment, please name the file according to the following format: [student number] [name] MIDTERM; for example: "88888888 Matteo Ravasio MIDTERM".

Due date: 22nd November.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Late submission penalties: within 5 days, -5 points; between 5 and 10 days, -10 points; more than 10 days, -15 points.

1. We have become accustomed to appreciating paintings and drawings through photographs in art history books or museum websites. How is the appreciation of a photographic reproduction different from the appreciation of the original? What is lost (if anything), and what is gained (if anything)? Finally, did photographic reproductions change our relation to the original artwork, and if so, how?

2. In our everyday lives, we often appreciate how objects perform their function. Sometimes, objects are judged to be beautiful precisely because of how their structure facilitates their intended use. Design objects, such as Philippe Starck's *Juicy Salif* (1990), are an example of this. Suppose that someone said that these examples are crucial to understanding the art of architecture. How would you defend such a view?

3. Henry James's story *The Turn of the Screw* (1898) is the object of some interpretive controversy. According to one possible interpretation, the story is a ghost story, set in a world in which ghosts actually exist. According to a different interpretation, the ghosts are simply imagined by the story's narrator. The former interpretation considers *The Turn of the Screw* a horror story, whereas the latter makes it more similar to a contemporary psychological thriller movie. It is sometimes argued that the latter interpretation makes the work more valuable and interesting.

How would different theories of interpretation settle this issue? What elements would they consider as supportive of one interpretation over the other?