**UNSW Course Outline**

# ARTS2367 Thinking Through Art - 2024

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## General Course Information

**Course Code :**  ARTS2367
**Year :**  2024
**Term :**  Term 1
**Teaching Period :**  T1
**Is a multi-term course? :**  No
**Faculty :**  Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
**Academic Unit :**  School of Humanities and Languages
**Delivery Mode :**  In Person
**Delivery Format :**  Standard
**Delivery Location :**  Kensington
**Campus :**  Sydney
**Study Level :**  Undergraduate
**Units of Credit :**  6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

What motivates us to recognise something as art or to call something beautiful or ugly, meaningful or indifferent? What is the place that art has come to occupy in modern life? Do we today mean the same thing by art as other ages and societies? If not, what does that tell us

about the norms, attitudes and practices that structure our lives? Drawing on several aesthetic traditions, this course reflects on imagination, representation, interpretation, pleasure as well as the differences among the arts.

## Relationship to Other Courses

This course offers an introduction to the sub-branch of philosophy known as aesthetics.  It is the only course in aesthetics in the UNSW philosophy curriculum.  The readings come from a number of different philosophical traditions - Anglo-American (analytic), European (continental) and Asian - and thus provide additional engagement with the schools of thought explored in other courses.

## Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
| --- |
| CLO1 : Identify and analyse fundamental themes and concepts in aesthetics |
| CLO2 : Assess and apply theories to the understanding of works of art |
| CLO3 : Evaluate perspectives and positions of different traditions in aesthetics |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
| --- | --- |
| CLO1 : Identify and analyse fundamental themes and concepts in aesthetics | • 1500-word essay<br>• 5 X 200-word Moodle posts<br>• 2500-word essay |
| CLO2 : Assess and apply theories to the understanding of works of art | • 1500-word essay<br>• 5 X 200-word Moodle posts<br>• 2500-word essay |
| CLO3 : Evaluate perspectives and positions of different traditions in aesthetics | • 1500-word essay<br>• 5 X 200-word Moodle posts<br>• 2500-word essay |

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|---|---|---|
| 1500-word essay<br>Assessment Format: Individual | 30% | Due Date: 15/03/2024<br>04:00 PM |
| 5 X 200-word Moodle posts<br>Assessment Format: Individual | 20% | Due Date: 19/04/2024<br>04:00 PM |
| 2500-word essay<br>Assessment Format: Individual | 50% | Due Date: 26/04/2024<br>04:00 PM |

## Assessment Details
### 1500-word essay

Assessment Overview

1500-word academic essay.

The lecturer will provide written feedback in the form of individual comments, a rubric and a grade.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and analyse fundamental themes and concepts in aesthetics
- CLO2 : Assess and apply theories to the understanding of works of art
- CLO3 : Evaluate perspectives and positions of different traditions in aesthetics

Detailed Assessment Description

In this first essay you are to provide 1) a reconstruction and 2) evaluation of the readings for a given week.  The two tasks do not have to be given equal space.  Accuracy in representing the views of others is at once an academic virtue and an academic skill: both praise and criticism have more traction if their author can convincingly convey an understanding of the primary text.

Choose one of the four following topics:

1) pleasure and pain in the reception of art according to Lear and Chaudhury;

2) the appreciation of the imperfect according to Saito and Ruskin;

3) Indigenous artistic practice as reported by Morphy;

4) the work of art in relation to interpretation according to Heidegger and Sontag.

Engagement with secondary literature is a feature of academic writing. As a rule of thumb, referring to commentators when they criticise or elaborate on the primary text is much better than referring to them when they simply paraphrase it or repeat widely known facts concerning its composition or influence. It is even better when you can put forward an argument of your own in response to a commentator's criticism or elaboration of the primary text.

Students are encouraged to devise their own essay topics, since self-directed research as an undergraduate is an excellent way to prepare for postgraduate study. Please consult the course convenor for approval of your chosen topic.

### Assessment Length

1500 words

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## 5 X 200-word Moodle posts

### Assessment Overview

Every student is required to post a total of five contributions to the discussion forum on Moodle by the end of the term.
Topics for the discussion forum will be drawn up each week in the tutorial and posted by the course convenor.

Feedback takes the form of the convenor's on-line responses to the posts.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and analyse fundamental themes and concepts in aesthetics
- CLO2 : Assess and apply theories to the understanding of works of art
- CLO3 : Evaluate perspectives and positions of different traditions in aesthetics

### Detailed Assessment Description

The purpose of the activity is to hone one's ideas regarding the readings and to continue the discussions that we will be having in class. The texts we will be reading are full of difficult ideas and arguments and we should be prepared to help and to challenge one another in our attempts to come to grips with them.

Each of the five posts should be between 150-200 words and demonstrate an engagement with the reading. The task does not involve writing a summary of the reading. Showing that you have done the reading is not necessarily the same as showing that you have understood it. If you can

say what it is about a text that you find confusing, you will be demonstrating your engagement with it.

You may find that you are able to make a better contribution by responding to someone else's post rather than to the discussion topic directly.

The posts will be marked on 1) their level of insight into the issues, 2) the clarity with which ideas are expounded and 3) the skills of philosophical argumentation they demonstrate.

### Assessment Length

5 X 200 words

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

## 2500-word essay

### Assessment Overview

2500-word academic essay.

The lecturer will provide written feedback in the form of individual comments, a rubric and a grade.

This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and analyse fundamental themes and concepts in aesthetics
- CLO2 : Assess and apply theories to the understanding of works of art
- CLO3 : Evaluate perspectives and positions of different traditions in aesthetics

### Detailed Assessment Description

In the second and final essay you are to draw on the course readings from weeks 5-10 to address a topic in aesthetics, offering both a reconstruction and evalutation.  Check the five criteria in the marking rubric for an understanding of what I will be looking for.

Choose one of the following topics:

1) the relationship between art and community according to Arendt;

2) understanding the mechanics of Kant's judgements of the beautiful;

3) the pleasure we can have in intimidating spectacles (the sublime);

4) the difference and the relationship between taste and genius;

5) the prospects of persuading other people to agree with our evaluation of a work of art.

Students are encouraged to devise their own essay topics, since self-directed research as an undergraduate is an excellent way to prepare for postgraduate study. Please consult the course convenor for approval of your chosen topic.

### Assessment Length

2500 words

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

# General Assessment Information

The grading rubric for the two essays can be found on Moodle.

For detailed and authoritative information on referencing, consult the Chicago Manual of Style via the UNSW library:

https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

Assessment for this course consists of three tasks.  In order to pass, an overall mark of 50% or more is required.

# Course Schedule

| Teaching Week/Module | Activity Type | Content |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February | Lecture | Pleasure and Pain in the Reception of Art<br>Texts to read before class:<br>Jonathan Lear, "Katharsis", Phronesis 33, no. 3 (1988): 297-326<br>Pravas Jivan Chaudhury, "Catharsis in the Light of Indian Aesthetics", Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 15, no. 2 (1956): 215-26 |
| Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February | Lecture | The Ethics of Reception<br>Texts to read before class:<br>Yuriko Saito, "The Japanese Aesthetics of Imperfection and Insufficiency", Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 55, no. 4 (1997): 377-85<br>John Ruskin, excerpt from "The Nature of Gothic" in The Stones of Venice, vol. 2 (Orpington: George Allen, 1886), pp. 151-208 |
| Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March | Lecture | Indigenous Painting in Australia - Questions, Challenges and Opportunities<br>Text to read before class:<br>Howard Morphy, "Contemporary Developments" in Aboriginal Art (London: Phaidon Press, 1998), pp. 369-420 |
| Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March | Lecture | Interpreting the Work of Art<br>Texts to read before class:<br>Martin Heidegger, "Hölderlin and the Essence of Poetry" in Elucidations of Hölderlin's Poetry, trans. Keith Hoeller (Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 2000), pp. 51-65<br>Susan Sontag, "Against Interpretation" in Against Interpretation, and Other Essays (New York: Anchor Books, 1990), pp. 3-14 |
| Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March | Lecture | Taste and Judgement and What They Mean for Politics<br>Texts to read before class:<br>Hannah Arendt, "Culture and Politics" in Reflections on Literature and Culture, ed. Susannah Young-ah Gottlieb (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2007), pp. 179–202<br>Hannah Arendt, "The Crisis in Culture: Its Social and Its Political Significance" in Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought (New York: The Viking Press, 1968), pp. 197-226 |
| Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March | Reading | No classes this week |
| Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March | Lecture | Aesthetic Judgement<br>Text to read before class:<br>Immanuel Kant, §§1-22, Critique of the Power of Judgment, trans. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 89-127 |
| Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April | Lecture | The Sublime<br>Text to read before class:<br>Immanuel Kant, §§23-29, Critique of the Power of Judgment, trans. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 128-59 |
| Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April | Lecture | The Specificity of Art<br>Text to read before class:<br>Immanuel Kant, §§30-49, Critique of the Power of Judgment, trans. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 160-96 |
| Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April | Lecture | Genius and Taste<br>Text to read before class:<br>Immanuel Kant, §§50-60, Critique of the Power of Judgment, trans. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 197-230 |

# Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## General Schedule Information

**Lecture**: Thursday 9-11 am   **Venue**: UNSW Business School 216

**Seminar**: Thursday 1-2 pm   **Venue**: Mathews 308

**Tutorial**: Friday 1-2 pm      **Venue**: Mathews 232

# Course Resources

## Prescribed Resources

This course is based on a series of readings from the philosophy of art.  You will find each week's prescribed readings on Moodle.  They are accessible in electronic format via the Leganto link to the UNSW library.

## Recommended Resources

On Moodle you will also find via Leganto academic commentaries on each week's topics and set texts.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback on the course both formally - via the end-of-term MyExperience survey - and informally - via e-mail or face-to-face.

This year's version of ARTS2367 involves a change in the readings for five of the nine weeks.

# Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Convenor | James Phillips | | Morven Brown 369 | 9065 1055 | Fridays 12 noon - 1 pm | No | Yes |

# Other Useful Information

## Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

**Use of AI for assessments**

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

**Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

**Late Submission Penalty**

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

## School Contact Information

**School of Humanities & Languages**

**Email:** hal@unsw.edu.au

**Location:** School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, Room 258

**Opening Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm