

CAH2505: ARTS AND AESTHETIC CRITICISM

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Arts and Aesthetic Criticism

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

2505

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL2505 Arts and Aesthetic Criticism CTL3505 Arts and Aesthetic Criticism

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide a grounding in different ways of appreciating and understanding cultural artworks and heritage artifacts. Basic aesthetic and theoretical concepts like the nature of art, imitation, representation, expression, form, beauty,

etc. will be introduced and discussed to enable students to understand, interpret and appreciate the aesthetic properties of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts, which allows students to develop their cultural and aesthetic awareness.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the concepts of art and aesthetic criticism			x	
2	Analyze the importance of aesthetic criticisms for understanding and appreciation of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts			x	
3	Demonstrate their appreciation of the aesthetic values of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts		x		
4	Apply the aesthetic theories learned in the course to their analysis of different cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.				x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings	Students will critically engaged with book and articles related to the course topics.	1, 2, 3	
2	Lectures and lecture discussion	Student will engaged with the major theories and characteristics of course topics at each lecture. Students will thoughtfully engaged with a series of designed discussion questions and express their thoughts and opinions accordingly during lecture.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	Guided field trips	Students will participate in guided visits to museums or art markets, and engaged with related report and discussion on these visits, in order to gain deeper knowledge of the topic issues and stimulate critical reflection.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Essay: 1000-2500 words, on any topic(s) discussed in the course; students are required to show their grasp of the topic they have chosen and their ability to appreciate the cultural artworks and heritage artifacts of their own choice.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
2	Presentation: students are required to give a short presentation (group or individual) in which they explain and discuss any concept(s) introduced in the course and apply the chosen concept to other cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
3	Classroom performance (in-class activities)	1, 2, 3, 4	10	-	No
4	In Class Final Quiz	1, 3, 4	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Essay

Criterion

about 1000-2500 words, on any topic(s) introduced in the course; students need to show their grasp of the topic(s) they have chosen and their ability to appreciate the cultural artworks and heritage artifacts of their own choice.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of various ways to understand and appreciate various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good grasp of the important features of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Some evidence of critical ability in analyzing and appreciating cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Good linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of basic concepts of aesthetic criticisms.
2. A certain degree of understanding of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Fair linguistic competence to present the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of concepts covered in the course.

Marginal (D)

1. Familiarity with the basic concepts of aesthetic criticisms covered in the course.
2. Marginal command of course materials, with the ability to describe some concepts of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Failure (F)

1. Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter covered in the course.
2. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
3. Weakness in demonstrating an understanding or an appreciation of the aesthetic values of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Weakness in presentation skills.

Assessment Task

Presentation

Criterion

Students are required to give a small-group presentation in which they explain and discuss any concept(s) introduced in the course and apply the chosen concept to other cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of various ways to understand and appreciate various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good grasp of the important features of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Some evidence of critical ability in analyzing and appreciating cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Good linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of basic concepts of aesthetic criticisms.
2. A certain degree of understanding of cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Fair linguistic competence to present the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of concepts covered in the course.

Marginal (D)

1. Familiarity with the basic concepts of aesthetic criticisms covered in the course.
2. Marginal command of course materials, with the ability to describe some concepts of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

Failure (F)

1. Very limited familiarity with the basic concepts of aesthetic criticism covered in the course.
2. Little to no command of course materials, lacking the ability to describe some concepts of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Unable to analyse the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Ineffective and incompetent communication skills.

Assessment Task

In Class Final Quiz

Criterion

It will grade on how student responds to the questions, content and fluency. Students should demonstrate the ability to describe the significant art works disseminate political messages in their historical contexts.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of

- Excellent grasp of the material with in-depth of extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Excellent understanding of issues in art and politics.
- Excellent explanation the different media and techniques of message dissemination in the art world.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of

- Good grasp of the material with in-depth of extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Good understanding of issues in art and politics.
- Good explanation the different media and techniques of message dissemination in the art world.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of

- Adequate grasp of the material with in-depth of extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Adequate understanding of issues in art and politics.
- Adequate explanation the different media and techniques of message dissemination in the art world.

Marginal (D)

Familiarity with the subject matter;

- Marginal grasp of the material with in-depth of extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Marginal understanding of issues in art and politics.
- Marginal explanation the different media and techniques of message dissemination in the art world.

Failure (F)

Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources;
 Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary levels;
 Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter of relevant themes;

Assessment Task

Classroom performance

Criterion

This part will grade on attendance rate and performance in learning activities. Students require attending lectures, tutorials. They have to respond to questions and finish five-minute summaries in lectures. They also require to actively participate in discussions and express their ideas in tutorials. Students have to show their pre-class preparation.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent in-class participation, positive listening, ability to simulate class discussion and comment on other points.
 Excellent pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points.
 Good pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate in-class participation, listening comprehension, ability to participate class discussion and comment on other points.
 Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Marginal (D)

Marginally satisfies the basic requirements of the participation.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet minimum requirements of participation

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Topics may include but are not restricted to the following:

Art, aesthetic criticism, imitation, representation, expression, form, beauty, textures and patterns, lines and shapes, visual effects, emphasis and proportion, balance and principle of unity.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Adams, Laurie. A History of Western Art (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008).
2	Cooper, David E. Aesthetics: The Classic Readings (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1997).
3	Fu, Xinian, Alexandra. Harrer, and Nancy Steinhardt. Traditional Chinese Architecture: Twelve Essays (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017).
4	Gombrich, E. H. The Story of Art (London: Phaidon Press Limited, 1995).

5	Ledderose, Lothar. <i>Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production in Chinese Art</i> (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000).
6	Sheppard, Anne. <i>Aesthetics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Art</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).
7	Sullivan, Michael. <i>The Arts of China</i> . (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008).
8	Wu, Hung. <i>Contemporary Chinese Art: A History, 1970s-2000s</i> (London: Thames & Hudson, 2014).
9	Steinhardt, Nancy Shatzman. <i>Chinese Architecture: A History</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019).
10	Lynton, Norbert. <i>The Story of Modern Art</i> (London: Phaidon Press Limited, 1989).
11	Aesthetics (The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy) http://www.iep.utm.edu/a/aestheti.htm
12	Olga' s Gallery http://www.abcgallery.com/
13	Clive Bell' s Significant Form Theory of Art http://www.stuckismwales.co.uk/theory/tblast/significant.php
14	Robin George Collingwood (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy) http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/collingwood/

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil