

Aesthetics I (A001974)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Vandenabeele, Bart	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Schreel, Louis	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Architecture	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques)	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Urban Design and Architecture)	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	5	A
Elective Set Art Studies	5	A
Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Aesthetics, Philosophy of Art

Position of the course

This basic course wants to enable students to acquire insight into the main problems in aesthetics and the philosophy of art and to reflect adequately on its major issues.

Contents

We discuss several important issues in philosophical aesthetics. We thoroughly study several key texts in the history of aesthetics (a.o. Hume, Kant, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Hegel, ...) and discuss their current relevance. Referring to concrete examples of artworks, we critically discuss topics, such as the normativity of aesthetic judgements, aesthetic communality, artistic creativity, the cognitive and social value(s) of art, the tragic and the sublime, and the hierarchy of the arts.

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 To reflect theoretically on matters such as art, beauty, the sublime and aesthetic experience.
- 2 To be able to argue in an informed and consistent way about philosophical problems with respect to the aesthetic and art.
- 3 To be able to situate, interpret and understand original texts from the history of the philosophical aesthetics.
- 4 To be able to argue critically about important themes of and views on the

philosophical aesthetics and art philosophy.

5 To be able to link themes and arguments from texts on the philosophical aesthetics.

6 To apply the studied theories on (contemporary) problems in the philosophical aesthetics and art philosophy.

7 To apply the acquired terminology faultlessly in an argument on the aesthetic and the arts.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Seminars supported by audio-visual devices
- Independent work: close reading of texts
- No lecture recordings

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Kunst op leven en dood. Schopenhauer tegen Nietzsche

Indicative price: € 26

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Bart Vandenabeele

Type: Syllabus

Name: texts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

De docent is available during and between classes.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with essay questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% end-of-term

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible oral examination on a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback via email is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

