

Name of the lecturer: Prof. Dror Pimentel

Name of the course: Theory of Art

Course number:

Mode of instruction(1) : Frontal

Weekly hours(2) : 2

Credits: 2

Prerequisites:

The purpose of the course: (2-3 explanatory sentences)

Art is the most ancient human practice addressed by theoretical thinking. In this course, we will follow the main features of theoretical thought on art from ancient times, through modernity, up to the present. In doing so, we will be acquainted with major thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Walter Benjamin. Additionally, we will confront questions such as what is the beautiful; what is the sublime; what is the nature of aesthetic pleasure; how art conveys meaning; and what are the relations between art and politics.

Contents(3) :

Duties: home exam

Details of meetings–

- Session 1 Plato, art as mimesis
- Session 2 Plato, art and the polis
- Session 3 Aristotle, Poetics: the structure and purpose of tragedy
- Session 4 Classicism: genre, genius, criticism, masterpiece
- Session 5 Art from the viewpoint of the viewer: David Hume
- Session 6 Kant: the notion of the beautiful
- Session 7 Kant: the notion of the sublime
- Session 8 Nietzsche: the Dionysian and Apollonian
- Session 9 Heidegger: art and truth
- Session 10 Benjamin: art and politics
- Session 11 Formalism
- Session 12 Structuralism
- Session 13 Post-structuralism



Various:

The grade components in percentages:

Participation in class 20%

Final submission 80%

Compulsory attendance

Bibliography:

Plato, *Republic X*

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Laocoon: An Essay on the Limits of Painting and Poetry*

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*

Walter Benjamin, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*

Ferdinand de-Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*

Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*

Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida*

Martin Heidegger, *The Origin of the Work of Art*

Jacques Derrida, *Of Grammatology*

Jean Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation*