



Advanced Value Theory I | PIP88151

Year	PhD Student
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	Michaelmas
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Richard Teague
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Module Outline:

In this class we will embark on an in-depth inquiry into one of the most neglected branches of philosophy. Aesthetics is concerned with the nature of aesthetic judgments, aesthetic attitudes, and aesthetic experiences. As such, aesthetics not only studies the aesthetically relevant features of objects and phenomena that are presented to us in aesthetic experiences but also the peculiar characteristics of aesthetic states of mind. With a syllabus drawing on both historical and contemporary thinkers, we will approach this subject from three perspectives: metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and value theory.

Key themes structuring this module include:

- Theories of Beauty: Material, Intellectual, and Human
- Pleasure and Emotion
- The Beautiful and the Sublime
- Taste and Subjectivity
- Aesthetic Representation: Form, Content, and Purpose
- Imagination
- Intrinsic Value and Disinterestedness
- Aesthetics and Morality

Assessment:

1 Essay (100 %) 4,000 words due on January 3rd, 2026



Recommended Reading List:

Most of the essential readings for this module will come from the following anthology:

- Cooper, D.E. (2019) *Aesthetics: The Classic Readings* (2nd Edition). Wiley-Blackwell

However, for introductory purposes, students should read:

- Nanay, B. (2019) *Aesthetics: A Very Short Introduction*. (OUP) Chapters 1 – 3
- Wittgenstein, L. 'A Lecture on Ethics', *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (1965), pp. 3-12