

Advanced Value Theory I | PIU44173

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Samantha Fazekas
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Module Outline:

This module will analyze the relationship between aesthetic and political judgment. Specifically, we will focus on the analogy that Hannah Arendt draws between distinguishing beauty from ugliness, right from wrong. Since Arendt keeps morality and politics sharply distinct, the first part of the module will be dedicated to Arendt's conception of morality and politics, her reasons for keeping moral values out of the political realm, and her reasons for keeping moral and political judgment distinct. This will lead us to question whether morality informs or impedes political decision-making. The second part of the module will question whether or not basing political judgment on aesthetic judgment is a better alternative. If beauty is 'in the eyes of the beholder,' does it follow that Arendt 'aestheticizes' politics? How can citizens objectively distinguish between the political values of right and wrong if the aesthetic values of beauty and ugliness are relative?

Assessment:

1 Exam (mid-term) 50% **AND** 1 Essay (end of module) 50%

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central texts will be excerpts from the following:

- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1958).
- Hannah Arendt, *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy*, ed. Ronald Beiner (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1992).
- Hannah Arendt, "Some Questions of Moral Philosophy," *Responsibility and Judgment*, ed. Jerome Kohn (New York: Schocken Books, 2003).
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, trans. Werner S. Pluhar (Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 1987).