**Italian code: M-FIL/04 (old) – PHIL-04/A (new) Credits:9**

**Course: Aesthetics**

**Main language of instruction:** Italian

**Other language of instruction:** English

**Head instructor**

**Professor Stefano OLIVA - stefano.oliva@unicusano.it**

**Objectives**

The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the history of the fundamental concepts of the discipline; to distinguish the theoretical positions of the various authors presented; to be able to carry out relevant reflections on the concepts introduced and on the fields of application of the arts and media; to be able to contextualize the theses presented in the context of the current aesthetic debate; to be able to formulate theses in relation to the problems proposed and to argue them in a personal and critical manner.

**Course structure**

Introduction to Aesthetics

Section 1 : 4 fundamental concepts

Beauty, Sublime, Form, Art

Section 2: 4 examples of Applied Aesthetics

Music, Photography, Cinema, Media

**Competencies**

Disciplinary knowledge and understanding:

1. recognise the theoretical issues at stake in the aesthetic debate;

2. to understand the main historical and conceptual junctures of arts and media aesthetics

3. critically understand the strengths and weaknesses of the various theoretical positions presented;

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding in terms of skills

1. to be able to sustain a personal and critical argumentation with respect to the issues addressed by arts and media aesthetics

2. to be able to distinguish and illustrate the specificities of the different arts and media treatments.

Non-disciplinary transversal competences

1. Autonomy of judgement

2. Communication skills

Knowledge, disciplinary competences and transversal non-disciplinary competences will be tested in the Etivity activities, in the written examination and in the oral examination. The above-mentioned non-disciplinary transversal competences will be tested in the oral examination in more detailed terms.

**Syllabus**

Unit 1: Introduction to Aesthetics

Unit 2: Beauty (from antiquity to contemporary Aesthetics)

Unit 3: Sublime (ancient origins, eighteenth-century reworking and contemporary revival)

Unit 4: Form (Aristotelian theory and contemporary revival, from Pareyson to Eco)

Unit 5: Art (history of the concept and problems of definition)

Unit 6: Aesthetics of Music (Hanslick, Wittgenstein, Langer).

Unit 7: Aesthetics of Photography (Benjamin, Barthes, Sontag).

Unit 8: Aesthetics of cinema (Benjamin, Ėjzenštejn, Deleuze).

Unit 9: Media Aesthetics (Adorno, Eco, Fisher, Virno).

**Evaluation system and criteria**

The examination consists of a written test. This includes:

* 30 numerical multiple-choice questions (1 marks each for a total of 30 out of 30 marks).

In addition, an e-tivity consisting of a short written text, not compulsory. These need to be sent to the instructor in advance of the examination. The e-tivity counts from 1 to 3 marks.

**Bibliography and resources**

1. *Materials to consult*

Notes written by the instructor are available in Italian.

1. *Recommended bibliography*

Suggested readings are:

- W. Benjamin, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, MIT (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://web.mit.edu/allanmc/www/benjamin.pdf)

- P. D’Angelo, *Estetica*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 2011.

- U. Eco, *Apocalypse Postponed*, Indiana University Press, 2000.

- G. Deleuze, *What Is A Creative Act* (https://deleuze.cla.purdue.edu/lecture/lecture-01-21/)

- M. Fisher, Capitalist Realism, Zero Books, 2009.