

Course No: SLS 4005

Course Title: Principles of Aesthetics and Art of the East and the West

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Core/Optional: Optional

Objectives:

To appreciate works of art with multiple and comparative approaches

To realize that beauty, truth and goodness are three major concerns in any civilizations and human beings arrive at relatively similar destinations in their search for these three

To understand various concepts of beauty, art and truth developed in two civilizations

To evaluate the ways in which the “idea of art” changes over time and space

Intended Learning Out comes;

Upon completing this course, students will be able to

Comprehend and appreciate non-verbal arts

Write essays reviewing visual arts

Use visual arts in teaching aesthetics in general

Discourse on modern art using key concepts in theories of aesthetics

Gain a comparative comprehension on aesthetic theories of East and West

Time Allocation: (Hours): Supervised Independent Research: 300

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the Eastern and Western theories of art, and it focuses on concepts of “beauty”, “art,” “connoisseur” and “function” of art. In terms the theories of Eastern theories of aesthetics, the course will discuss concepts such as *rasa*, *bhaava*, *abhinya*, *mudra* as they are described in Sanskrit theoretical texts such as *Natyashastra*. In terms of Western aesthetics, the course will only focus on medieval and modern theories of aesthetics from Baumgarten to Postmodern theories of art. Theorists and philosophers like Adorno, Baudrillard, Benjamin, Cassirer, Deluze, Derrida, Heidegger and Zizek.

Recommended texts:

Adorno, Theodor W. *Aesthetic Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis press, 1999.

Kai, Hammermeister. *The German Aesthetic Tradition*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Wijewardhana, Hemapala G. *Sanskrutha Kavya Vichara Muladharm*. Colombo: Gunasena, 1967.

Assessment	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60