



Philosophy 292 Aesthetics

Pragmatist Aesthetics Yesterday and Today

Spring 2018, Mon. 6:00-8:45, Prof. Tom Leddy

Straddling the divide between Analytic and Continental philosophy is the Pragmatist tradition. This tradition, especially in the late work of John Dewey (1934), has particular relevance to contemporary Aesthetics and The Philosophy of Art. Starting roughly in the 1990s, a new tradition in Aesthetics arose, drawing inspiration from Dewey. It challenged the assumptions of Analytic Aesthetics while still sharing a Darwinian commitment to the idea that humans are live creatures interacting with their environments. Today, Aesthetics is not limited to the Philosophy of Art but has expanded to include the Aesthetics of Nature and the Aesthetics of Everyday Life. This course will focus on contemporary debates in these three areas with a special emphasis on Pragmatist solutions to the problems raised. Japanese as well as Western Aesthetics will be discussed.

Required Texts:

Yuriko Saito. *Aesthetics of the Familiar: Everyday Life and World-Making*. (Oxford U. Press, 2017)
Covers the aesthetics of everyday life with an emphasis on Japanese aesthetics.

John Dewey. *Art as Experience*. (Perigree, 2007, 2009 or any other edition: originally, 1934). [You can get this used quite cheap.]

Nature, Aesthetics, and Environmentalism: From Beauty to Duty ed. Allen Carlson and Sheila Lintott (Columbia University Press, 2008) Covers the aesthetics of nature.

The Philosophy of Art 2nd Edition by Stephen Davies. 2015. [It is best to get the second edition, but the 1st edition used can be very cheap. Amazon hides it: look under Stephen Davies' page.]

Recommended [not required]: Thomas Leddy. *The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: The Aesthetics of Everyday Life*. (Broadview, 2012). [Used copies are available for as little as \$15], Yuriko Saito. *Everyday Aesthetics* (Oxford U. Press, 2007.)