



Karen Haas, Flying Boys

Phil. 292, Aesthetics or Ethics: Everyday Aesthetics

Fall 2020

Professor Tom Leddy, Wed. 6:00-8:45pm SH241

Philosophical aesthetics used to be dominated by debates over the nature of art. However in recent years interest has been increasingly directed to the aesthetics of everyday life. (What is the aesthetics of everyday life? Think about the aesthetic choices you make every day: Does that shirt look good on me? What makes some meals really good? Is that person attractive? The aesthetics of everyday life reflects on such things as pretty, looks good, beautiful, sublime, ugly, interesting, zany, and cute, as applied to everyday life.) Recent debates have centered around such topic as the relationship between everyday aesthetics and art aesthetics, the role of everyday aesthetics in the good life, the distinction between the aesthetic and the merely pleasurable, the relationship between everyday aesthetics and ethics, the nature of the everyday, everyday aesthetics and the aesthetics of nature, and the nature and importance of negative everyday aesthetic experience.

In this class we will focus on current debates in the aesthetics of everyday life. Students will be able to see in-depth how philosophy is done in an area of contemporary lively discussion.

You should read by the first day of class this excellent overview of the topic: Yuriko Saito, "Aesthetics of the Everyday," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aesthetics-of-everyday/> (2019) This overview also contains an excellent up-to-date bibliography.

Texts: Several of our texts will be freely available online.

1. Thomas Leddy, *The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: The Aesthetics of Everyday Life* (Broadview, 2012)
2. Yuriko Saito, *Aesthetics of the Familiar* (Oxford, 2017) .