Differently philosophical traditions understood ugliness as either the “opposite” or “negative” of beauty, or as an “imperfection” or “disharmony” associated with “spiritual ugliness” or moral turpitude. But can ugliness be a pure aesthetic category, an aesthetic value independent of moral values? How is ugliness different from disgust? How does it differ from sublimity, an aesthetic category also associated with negative feelings? Although this course is primarily an exploration in the history of aesthetics it also addresses the issues in contemporary aesthetic theories because it raises the question about the relationship between ugliness and modernity, the question of whether modern and contemporary art presuppose ugliness rather than beauty.

Instructor: Prof. Lara Ostaric (lostaric@temple.edu)

Required Texts (available on Canvas unless ordered through the bookstore):

Books Ordered Through the Bookstore:


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

(1) Paper(s) (60%):

You have the option of writing either (1) 2 papers each approx. 3000 words long, using only the readings for the course OR (2) 1 longer paper, approx. 5000 words long with additional research of the secondary literature on your topic.
(2) 10 1-page response papers (25)%:
Your 1-page papers should consist of a short exposition and an evaluation of the author’s main ideas. The papers are always on the readings for the upcoming class.

(3) Attendance and Participation (15)%:
You are expected to come to class regularly, on time, prepared and ready for discussion. Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend for some legitimate reason (e.g. illness, family emergency) you must notify me in advance. Excuses after the fact will not be accepted. You can have up to two unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence will negatively affect your participation grade and your final grade.

Attendance Policy:
I will be taking attendance at each class. Students who must be absent from a class should inform me by email prior to the class that they will miss. More than 2 unexcused absences will negatively affect your participation grade. I reserve the right to fail any student with excessive absences (more than 4 absences). Late arrival or early departure will count as half an absence unless excused before the beginning of class.

Academic Honesty:
All students are expected to be familiar with Temple University’s policies on academic honesty. For reference, see the “Temple University Student Code of Conduct” at http://policies.temple.edu (policy number 03.70.02)

Academic Rights and Responsibilities Policy:
Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted the policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities posted at http://policies.temple.edu (policy number 03.70.02)

Incomplete Policy:
I follow the incomplete policy of the College of Liberal Arts. It is stated at http://www.temple.edu/cla/Advising/Faculty/incomplete.asp
Incomplete are granted only in documented cases of interfering circumstances beyond the student’s control (such as illness, disability or family emergency). Incomplete contracts should be completed and signed preferably by the last day of classes.

Disability Statement:
This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirement for participation. Any student who has a need for special accommodation because of a disability should contact me to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. I will work with Disability Resources and Services (215-204-1280; 100 Ritter Annex) to coordinate
reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Please register with Disability Resources and Services in advance, if you have a relapsing/remitting disability and there is a possibility it may interfere with your work this semester.

Schedule of Readings:

**I THE FORMALISM OF UGLINESS**

**Week 1**
- 01/14 Hutcheson, *Inquiry*
- 01/16 Hutcheson, *Inquiry*

**Week 2**
- 01/21 Baumgarten, *Reflections on Poetry*
- 01/23 Baumgarten, *Reflections on Poetry*

**Week 3**
- 01/28 Kant, *KU*
- 01/30 Kant, Lectures on Anthropology

**II UGLINESS AND SUBLIMITY**

**Week 4**
- 02/04 Burke, *Philosophical Enquiry*
- 02/06 Burke, *Philosophical Enquiry*

**III UGLINESS AND GENRE**

**Week 5**
- 02/11 Lessing, *Laocoon*
- 02/13 Lessing, *Laocoon*

**Week 6**
- 02/18 Lessing, *Laocoon*

**IV UGLINESS AND MORALITY**

02/23 Schiller, “On the Aesthetic Education of Mankind”

**Week 7**
- 02/25 Schiller, “On the Aesthetic Education of Mankind”
- 02/27 Schiller, “On the Aesthetic Education of Mankind;”
  Schiller, “Letter to Goethe, July 07, 1797

**Week 8**
- 03/03 SPRING BREAK
- 03/05 SPRING BREAK

**V UGLINESS AND MODERNITY**

**Week 9**
- 03/10 Schlegel, *On the Study of Greek Poetry*
- 03/12 Schlegel, *On the Study of Greek Poetry*
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