Criticism as a Way to Train the Aesthetic Judgement:
Why do we Like What we Like

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 - 10:55

Instructor: Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU, visiting fellow from C.N.R.S., France

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Course Description:

The idea behind this course is to offer students the opportunity to reflect on the artwork that they particularly like (films, series, plays, paintings, photographs, contemporary art, etc.) and learn to articulate a discourse about the reasons of their liking.

Work and essays are then discussed in class and aesthetics concepts are introduced to help students train their aesthetic judgement as well as acquire the right vocabulary to express it.

At some point during the course, some art work will be assigned to the students to be studied and written about as a way to expand their aesthetic knowledge even further.

This is a course that aims at helping students expand their aesthetic vision and criticism knowledge.

More specifically, the course will cover the following topics:
- The basics of Criticism
- The basics of Aesthetics
- The relationship between the two
- Some philosophical questions related to Criticism
- Some philosophical questions related to Aesthetics
- The question of Subjectivity
- Some more advanced notions about Criticism and Aesthetics
**Course Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to express their views about an art work using the vocabulary of criticism and aesthetics, and they will be able to write a constructive critic. They will also be familiar with some basic and advanced notions of aesthetics and criticism, as those will also be discussed in class.

**Instructional Strategies:**

Students will first be asked to write short essays about some of their favorite artwork (anything from a film they love, a play they saw recently that moved them a lot, some painting they saw and really liked at an exhibition, etc.). The essays will be discussed in class in a collaborative environment. Each student will have the opportunity to express their views on the work of their fellow students. And the instructor will give the missing information to acquire the necessary vocabulary and knowledge about criticism and aesthetics.

Some art work will also be assigned by the instructor to expose the students to artwork outside of their cultural knowledge. Along the course, some important texts about criticism and aesthetics will be distributed, read, and discussed in class.

**Prerequisites:**

None. Just the willingness to do the work and curiosity about art, criticism, aesthetics, and their vocabulary.

**Textbooks:**

The teacher will provide several documents drawn from original and secondary sources and require students to work on them and discuss them in class. The following texts will provide necessary background for many of the classroom discussions:


Grading:

Class participation 25%
Essays written during the term 25%
Mid-term 25%
Final exam 25%

The Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Equity and Diversity:

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy: http://tinyurl.com/CUHarassment-Discrimination. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the Dean of Students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.
Bio of Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU:

Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU is an artist and a philosopher. He has been involved in art making for most of his life (film, theatre, photography, music, creative writing, etc.). He has also been involved in academic research and teaching (electrical and computer engineering, linguistics, philosophy). He is now particularly interested in the creative process and its phenomenology, the link between art and spirituality, criticism, aesthetics, the philosophy or art, and the importance to rehabilitate love as a life value. He does research in France for the very prestigious C.N.R.S. (the National Center for Scientific Research).