**Aesthetics**

Course Code: PHI 3105

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course Description:***

The course will consider the subject-matter of aesthetics and its history. It will deal with such questions as the character of aesthetic experience, the concept of beauty, aesthetic judgment, aesthetic standards, the relation between the aesthetic and the cognitive, the concept of imagination, the nature of art, interpreting works of art, art criticism, art fraud, symbolism, metaphor and analogy, myth, significance of changes in fashion, standards of taste, norms of literary truth, the concept of style, the distinction between form and content, the intentional fallacy, the relativity of judgment. The course will discuss the development of an aesthetics culture in society and in individuals, the relation of art to social institutions and values and the social and moral functions of art.

***Course Objectives:***

The aim of this course is to enable students develop a philosophical approach to analyzing the major aesthetical question of beauty. It aims at engendering a critical and creative mindset in the students in approaching issues of aesthetics.

***Learning Objectives***

At the end of the course learners should be able to;

1. appreciate the role of aesthetics in human life
2. appreciate the role of philosophical inquiry in aesthetics studies
3. discern to approach aesthetical challenges from a philosophical view
4. develop skills of aesthetical critique to become expert aesthetical judges
5. develop skills of mental or theoretical aesthetical creativity

***Course Outline***

1. General Introduction
2. Meaning and defining aesthetics
3. Philosophy and aesthetics
4. Traditional African aesthetical ideas
5. Christian aesthetics
6. Art and morality
7. Politics of aesthetics
8. Culture and aesthetics
9. Potentiality and human aesthetical creativity
10. Hegelian aesthetics
11. Communication and aesthetics of storytelling
12. History and the making of aesthetical attitudes
13. Aesthetical critique in mass media
14. Theatrical aesthetics
15. Religion and aesthetics
16. Philosophy and Technological aesthetics

***Methodology***

Lectures, tutorials, guest lecturers, group work, individual presentations

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Lefebvre, Henri. The Production of space 26-59 Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1991
2. De Certeau, Michel. 1985. Practices of Space. In, *On Signs*, edited by Marshall Blonsky. 122-145. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, pp. 122-145
3. Bachelard, Gaston. *The Poetics of Space*. 3-37. Boston: Beacon, 1969
4. Giddens, Anthony. "Living in a Post-Traditional Society." *Reflexive Modernization: Politics, Tradition and Aesthetics in the Modern Social Order*, eds. Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens, and Scott Lash, 56-109. Stanford: StanfordUniversity Press, 1994