

Topics in Aesthetics

Abstract

This class will be an exploration of a few niche topics in aesthetics. One potential topic is human beauty. What makes a person beautiful? What role, if any, is played by personal character in determining human beauty? What ethical protections or additional considerations are attached to those who are deemed beautiful? What is the role of racial preference (fetishization?) for human beauty? Another potential topic is museum ethics. How should museums handle the sacred objects of other cultures? Are they (always) required to return these items, especially if the museum is the only institution with the resources to prevent the object's decay? Are there different ethical considerations for procurement, display, and return of such objects? This class assumes its students are already familiar with the basics of philosophical methodology (including the ability to construct valid and plausibly sound arguments, understood in the formal logic sense) and will focus on developing their skills to write term papers (15-20 pages in length).