FYS 129: The Beautiful and the Good: Art, Ethics, and Culture in Japan
Fall 2018
T/R 12:15-1:30pm
Bellsouth Building 316

Dr. Laura Specker Sullivan
Office hours: T/R 11-11:45, 1:45-3:00pm, 16 Glebe Street #300

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar considers the relationship between art, ethics, and culture through philosophy, literature, and visual art in Japan. We will read philosophical texts, examine the philosophical dimensions of literature, and practice taking diverse philosophical stances on works of art. In the process, we will reflect on assumptions about art in society and we will creatively explore the role of art in developing and sustaining moral attitudes and practices. This class includes reading and discussion, as well as experiential components such as museum and gallery visits.

REQUIRED TEXTS

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this class, students will be familiar with major thinkers in both the Western and Japanese aesthetic traditions. They will have gained experience understanding aesthetic theories, critiquing these theories and relating them to one another, and applying these theories to their experiences of art, broadly understood.

The main assignment for the course will be a final research paper that synthesizes the concepts and methods we have discussed throughout the semester and applies them to a topic of the student’s choosing. Students will complete this assignment in stages, beginning with a topic proposal (an abstract of the project), an annotated bibliography, a paper outline, a draft of the paper (optional), and a final paper.

In preparation for this final paper, students will also complete a series of short writing assignments throughout the course of the semester. Each writing assignment will have a different purpose.

These assignments ask students to engage with both written texts and works of art, and to think critically about how these different media have both aesthetic and ethical value (and the connection between them).
FYE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the completion of the First-Year Experience, students will be able to identify and use the appropriate academic resources and student support services at College of Charleston. These would include the Addleston library, information technology, the Center for Student Learning, the Career Center, and other appropriate academic resources, student support services, and cultural resources.

GRADING
10% Participation in class, including attendance and reading quizzes
10% Attendance/participation and successful completion of the Synthesis Seminar assignments/modules
40% Four short papers (10% each)
15% Final paper proposal, annotated bibliography, and outline
25% Final paper

GRADING SCALE
A 93-100 A-90-92
B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B-80-82
C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C-70-72
D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D-60-62
F 0-59

ASSESSMENT
Attendance and participation: Students are required to participate fully in discussion and class activities, unless they have a legitimate excuse. Failure to participate in discussion and engage in activities (through vocally contributing or active listening) will lead to a failure of the participation portion of the course, 10% of the final grade.

Reading quizzes: Throughout the course of the semester, we will have a number of reading quizzes for you to gauge how well you have done the reading. These will be factored into your participation grade.

Short papers: Students will submit three short papers during the course. Each paper will develop a specific philosophical skill.

Final paper: The main assignment for this course is a final paper that you will develop over the semester. You can use the short papers as models for what types of issues are appropriate to focus on in your final paper. We will develop your papers together and you will have multiple opportunities to ensure that you are on the right track. You will submit a paper proposal, annotated bibliography, and outline before the final paper is due.

FYSS: Attendance/participation and successful completion of the Synthesis Seminar assignments/modules are required for this course.
Course activities: As an FYE, this course includes some extracurricular activities, such as visits to galleries and museums. When these do not take place during class time, students are not required to attend (although of course the more the merrier!).

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Late assignments: Unless there is a legitimate excuse, late assignments will receive a 5% grade deduction for each calendar day late.

Electronic devices: No electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, and laptops) are allowed in class unless they are needed for a legitimate purpose that you have cleared with me first. Electronic devices compromise your own learning as well as the quality of our class discussion.

Academic integrity: Approaching your coursework with integrity means that everything you submit to me is completely your own work and that you are honest and transparent about the sources you use to complete your assignments. If you are unsure about how to cite a source or whether your use of a source would constitute plagiarism, please consult the College’s Honor Code: http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php If you don’t find an answer there, you can ask me or contact a librarian for assistance.

While in class I will encourage you to discuss ideas and concepts with each other, I expect writing assignments to be completed alone and without collaboration, unless I have given you prior permission. This also applies to submitting work you have completed for another class as work for this class – unless I give you special permission to do this, it is not permitted for this course.

Disability Accommodation: If there is a student in the class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, please come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

Names and Pronouns: I will gladly honor your request to address you by the name and gender pronouns of your choice. Please advise me of this early in the semester via your college-issued email account or during office hours so that I may make the appropriate notation on my class list.

Center for Student Learning: I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843)953-5635.
SCHEDULE *subject to change – always check your email and OAKS for updates!

Tuesday, August 21st: Saito, 9-28
Thursday, August 23rd: Laura away. **Paper 1:** Visit a Charleston gallery - write about an example of “paradigmatic art” and explain how it fits the features identified by Saito.

Tuesday, August 28th: Saito, 28-53
Thursday, August 30th: Okakura Tea vii-xix, 7-17

Tuesday, September 4th: Okakura Tea 47-68
Thursday, September 6th: Unknown Craftsman 109-126

Tuesday, September 11th: HURRICANE FLORENCE
Thursday, September 13th: HURRICANE FLORENCE

Tuesday, September 18th: Catchup for Unknown Craftsman
Thursday, September 20th: **Synthesis; Paper 2:** Write about a daily ritual that is meaningful to you.

Tuesday, September 25th: Aristotle Poetics parts 1-14
Thursday, September 27th: Aristotle Poetics parts 15-26

Tuesday, October 2nd: Plato Ion: Is poetry the result of inspiration or knowledge?
Thursday, October 4th: Plato Republic, Book X

Tuesday, October 9th: **Synthesis; Paper 3:** Plato and Aristotle each have different approaches to poetry. Contrast their two approaches.
Thursday, October 11th: HURRICANE MICHAEL

Tuesday, October 16th: **Synthesis: come with questions about Greek and Japanese aesthetics**

**Midterm Grades Submitted:** Paper 1, 2, and 3 and provisional participation grades for FYE and FSS (45% of final grade).

Thursday, October 18th: Laura away; Visit the Gibbes museum; **Final paper proposal due**

Tuesday, October 23rd: Natsume Soseki, the Three Cornered World

Thursday, October 25th: Saito, 205-226

Tuesday, October 30th: Saito 226-243; **Paper 4**
Thursday, November 1st: Laura away; **Library visit**

Tuesday, November 6th: **Fall Break; Annotated bibliography due**
Thursday, November 8th: Iki 13-34

Tuesday, November 13th: Iki 34-60; **Final paper outline due**
Thursday, November 15th: **Movie**: Tokyo Story

Tuesday, November 20th: Tanizaki 1-20
Thursday, November 22nd: *Thanksgiving*; **Send me a draft if you want me to read it**

Tuesday, November 27th: Tanizaki 20-42
Thursday, November 29th: **Synthesis**