Universitat de les Illes Balears

Teaching guide

Academic year	2016-17
Subject	11208 - Experimental aesthetics and neuroaesthetics
Group	Group 1, 2S
Teaching guide	D
Language	English

Subject identification

Subject	11208 - Experimental aesthetics and neuroaesthetics
Credits	1 de presencials (25 hours) 2 de no presencials (50 hours) 3 de totals (75 hours).
Group	Group 1, 2S (Campus Extens)
Teaching period	Second semester
Teaching language	Spanish

Professors

Lecturers	Horari d'atenció als alumnes					
	Starting time	Finishing time	Day	Start date	Finish date	Office
Gisèle Marie Marty Broquet gisele.marty@uib.es	You need to book a date with the professor in order to attend a tutorial.					
Marcos Nadal Roberts marcos.nadal@uib.es	You need to book a date with the professor in order to attend a tutorial.					

Contextualisation

It can be safely argued that the fields of empirical aesthetics and neuroaesthetics have been growing steadily for the past decade. Never before have there been so many researchers devoting their resources to characterizing the cognitive and biological foundations of aesthetic experience and artistic activities. Although much of this research today involves the use of novel neuroimaging techniques, the interest in this topic is by no means new. Empirical aesthetics is considered to be the second field within experimental psychology, only after psychophysics,inaugurated by Fechner in the second half of the 19th century.In this course we will cover the main current topics of research within empirical (psychological and neuroscientific) approaches to aesthetics and art, and implications for applied fields, including advertising, ergonomy and human factors, design, architecture, fashion, human relations, and so on.

Requirements

It is a good idea to have passed the required courses of the Master program.

Essential requirements

None

Skills

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Specific

* Interest in the applied fields of psychology and neuroscience.

Generic

* Critical thinking.
* Critical reading.

Transversal

* Positive attitude towards interdisciplinary research.

Basic

* You may consult the basic competencies students will have to achieve by the end of the Master's degree at the following address: http://estudis.uib.cat/master/comp_basiques/

Content

Theme content

1. General introduction
2. Psychological approaches to art and aesthetics
    * Fechner's inauguration of empirical aesthetics
    * Vygotsky and the Russian school
    * The Gestalt school
3. The new empirical aesthetics of the 1970s
    * Berlyne's Psychobiological Aesthetics
4. Current approaches and applications
    * Psychological Aesthetics today
    * Neuroaesthetics
    * Applications and implications of empirical aesthetics

Teaching methodology

In-class work activities

Modality	Name	Typ. Grp.	Description	Hours
Theory classes		Large group (G)	The basic contents of the course will be taught as lectures and as group debates.	25

At the beginning of the semester a schedule of the subject will be made available to students through the UIBdigital platform. The schedule shall at least include the dates when the continuing assessment tests will be conducted and the hand-in dates for the assignments. In addition, the lecturer shall inform students as to

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whether the subject work plan will be carried out through the schedule or through another way included in the Campus Extens platform.

Distance education work activities

Modality	Name	Description	Hours
Individual self-study		Students will have to write an individual essay related with the course contents.	50

Specific risks and protective measures

The learning activities of this course do not entail specific health or safety risks for the students and therefore no special protective measures are needed.

Student learning assessment

Individual self-study

Modality	Individual self-study
Technique	Papers and projects **(retrievable)**
Description	Students will have to write an individual essay related with the course contents.
Assessment criteria	Rigour, breadth and scope, creativity and originality will be the main criteria

Final grade percentage: 100%

Resources, bibliography and additional documentation

Basic bibliography

* Brieber, D., Nadal, M., & Leder, H. (2015). In the white cube: Museum context enhances the valuation and memory of art. *Acta Psychologica, 154*, 36-42.
* Cela-Conde, C. J., Agnati, L., Huston, J. P., Mora, F., & Nadal, M. (2011). The neural foundations of aesthetic appreciation. *Progress in Neurobiology, 94*, 39–48.
* Gómez-Puerto, G., Munar, E., & Nadal, M. (2015). Preference for curvature: A historical and conceptual framework. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, 9*, 712. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2015.00712
* Lauring (Ed.) (2014).*An introduction to neuroaesthetics. The neuroscientific approach to aesthetic experience, artistic creativity and arts appreciation*. Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum Press.
* Leder, H., & Nadal, M. (2014). Ten years of a model of aesthetic appreciation and aesthetic judgments: The aesthetic episode—developments and challenges in empirical aesthetics. *British Journal of Psychology, 105*, 443–464.
* Marty, G. (1997). Hacia la Psicología del Arte. *Psicothema, 9*, 57-68.
* Nadal, M., Munar, E., Capó, M. A., Rosselló, J., & Cela-Conde, C. J. (2008). Towards a framework for the study of the neural correlates of aesthetic preference. *Spatial Vision, 21*, 379-396.
* Nadal, M. (2013). The experience of art: Insights from neuroimaging.*Progress in Brain Research, 204*, 135-158.

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* Nadal, M., & Skov, M. (2013). Introduction to the Special Issue: Toward an Interdisciplinary Neuroaesthetics. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, 7*, 1-12.
* Pearce, M. T., Zaidel, D. W., Vartanian, O., Skov, M., Leder, H., Chatterjee, A., & Nadal, M. (2016). Neuroaesthetics: The cognitive neuroscience of aesthetic experience. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 11*, 265-279.
* Skov & O. Vartanian (Eds.) (2009).*Neuroaesthetics*. Amityville, NY: Baywood.
* Tinio & J. Smith (Eds.) (2014).*The Cambridge Handbook of the Psychology of Aesthetics and the Arts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
* Vartanian, O., & Nadal, M. (2007). A biological approach to a model of aesthetic experience. In L. Dorfman, C. Martindale & V. Petrov (Eds.), *Aesthetics and Innovation* (pp. 429-444). Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

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