

## STUDY SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Subject code	Subject group	Credits	Subject certified	Subject certification valid until	Reg. No.
SPK6004	C	6	2011 06 01	2013 06 01	

<b>Course type (compulsory or optional)</b>	<b>Optional</b>
<b>Course level (study cycle)</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Semester the course is delivered</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
<b>Study form (face-to-face or distant)</b>	<b>Face-to-face</b>

### **Title**

ESTETIKA IR POLITINĖ KRITIKA

### **Title in English**

AESTHETICS AND POLITICAL CRITICISM

### **Subject annotation in English**

The course engages the intersections of aesthetics and politics, in particular the concept and experience of aesthetic ideology, governmental and party use of aesthetic strategies, identity politics (race, gender, class, nationalism), and issues surrounding the question of „committed art.“ The common ground which sponsors the intersection between aesthetics and politics is power, and as such the course will keep in mind that the inferential points between the two sides of this comparative study are not material, localizable points but actions, power relations, actions on actions.

### **Necessary background knowledge for the study of the subject**

Filosofijos pagrindai, politikos mokslų pagrindai

### **Dalyko studijų rezultatai**

Students will read both aesthetic theory and political theory with the express goal of placing these two traditions in dialogue. Through this comparative method students will become adept at negotiating political interpretations of texts, films, and artworks, and they will become equally skilled in interpreting how aesthetic measures are deployed in politics.

### **Subject contents**

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Themes include:

1. Committed Art;
2. Aesthetic Ideology;
3. Fascist and Totalitarian Aesthetics;
4. Aesthetic Responses to Fascism and Totalitarianism;
5. Art as Cultural and Political Criticism;
6. Myth;
7. The Politics of Beauty;
8. The Politics of Ugliness;
9. East/Central European Literature: e.g. Milosz, Kundera, Kafka;
10. Nationalism;
11. Film as a political tool.

### **Study hours**

Lectures 30 hours, seminars 15 hours, team work 15 hours, individual work 100 hours.

**Evaluation of study achievements**

Assessment consists of mid-term examination – 25%; presentation and seminars – 25%  
final examination – 50%.

**Literature**

Adorno, Theodor. *Aesthetic Theory*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997.  
Adorno, Benjamin, Bloch, Brecht, and Lukacs. *Aesthetics and Politics*, New York: Verso, 1980.  
Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies*, New York: Hill and Wang, 1972.  
Sartre, Jean-Paul. „*What is Literature?*“ and *Other Essays*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988.  
Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*, London: Verso, 1983.  
De Man, Paul. *Aesthetic Ideology*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.  
Jameson, Frederic. *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*, Ithica, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1981.  
Foucault, Michel. *Power: Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984*, New York: The New Press, 1997.  
Eagleton, Terry. *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1990.  
Milosz, Czeslaw. *The Captive Mind*, London: Vintage Books, 1990.  
Franklin, Daniel. *Politics and Film*, New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006.  
Kundera, Milan. *The Art of the Novel*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2004.

**Programme prepared by**

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