Description: In this course we will examine intersections between art, morality, and politics by paying particular attention to the concept of judgment. What is involved in making judgments in the aesthetic, moral, and political fields? Is it the same kind of activity in each case, the only difference being the objects judged? When these fields come into conflict, does one trump the other? We will explore responses to these questions following two different paths. First, we will track a particular evolution of thought concerning judgment in these spheres across the history of philosophy beginning with Plato, passing through Immanuel Kant, and culminating in the writings of Hannah Arendt. Concurrently, we will examine debates in contemporary writings focusing on related issues such as the validity of ethical criticism in art, the possibility of beauty coexisting with evil, the role art plays in political activism, and the relationship between art and public space.

Texts: All readings are available on electronic reserve

Grading:  
8 response papers  16% (2% each)  
Participation  14%  
1 short paper (due Oct 16)  15%  
1 long paper (due Dec 7)  35%  
Final exam  20%

Schedule:  
Wk 1  Fri  Sept 7  Introduction and mechanics  

Plato and the Exile of Art  
2  Tues  11  Plato, Republic Bk II 368c-383c, Bk III 386-403c, Bk IV 433-435b  
  Fri  14  Republic Bk III 412b-415d, Bk V-VI 471c-484d, Bk VIII 557-558c  
3  Tues  18  Republic Bk VI 506b-510a, Bk VII 514-521c, Bk X 595-608b  

Ethical Criticism  
  Fri  21  Oscar Wilde, “Preface to The Picture of Dorian Gray”, excerpt from “The critic as artist”, excerpt from “The decay of lying”  
4  Tues  25  Karen Hanson, “How bad can good art be?”  
  Fri  28  Berys Gaut, “The ethical criticism of art”  
5  Tues  Oct 2  Richard Posner, “Against ethical criticism”
Kant and Aesthetic Judgment

Fri 5 Lecture on Kant’s ethics (no set reading, but read ahead in Kant)

6 Tues 9 Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* §1-§9 (pp.44-64)

Fri 12 No class (work on your paper and read ahead in Kant)

7 Tues 16 *Critique of Judgment* §18-§22, §39-§42 (pp.85-90, 157-170)

Short paper due

Fri 19 *Critique of Judgment* §43-§53 (pp.170-201)

8 Tues 23 *Critique of Judgment* §23-§29 (pp.97-126)

Fri 26 *Critique of Judgment* §17, §59, §60 (pp.79-84, 225-232)

Paul Guyer, excerpt from “Feeling and freedom: Kant on aesthetics and morality” (pp.33-41)

Arendt and Political Judgment

9 Tues 30 Hannah Arendt, excerpt from “What is authority?” (pp.462-481), excerpt from “Introduction into politics” (pp.93-114)

Fri Nov 2 Hannah Arendt, “The crisis in culture”

10 Tues 6 Linda Zerilli, “We feel our freedom”: imagination and judgment in the thought of Hannah Arendt

Evil in Art - *Triumph of the Will*

Fri 9 Screening of *Triumph of the Will* (no set reading)

11 Tues 13 Mary Devereaux, “Beauty and evil: the case of Leni Riefenstahl’s *Triumph of the Will*”

Art, Activism, and Public Space

Fri 16 Richard Meyer, “This is to enrage you”

See also www.actupny.org

12 Tues 20 Rachel V. Kutz-Flamenbaum, “Code pink”


Fri 23 No class – Thanksgiving

13 Tues 27 “Introduction” and “Transcript of a hearing to decide the future of *Tilted Arc*”

Hilde Hein, “What is public art? Time, place and meaning”

Gregg Horowitz, “Public art/public space: the spectacle of the *Tilted Arc* controversy”

Fri 30 Michael Kelly, “Public art controversy: the Serra and Lin cases”
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| Dec 4 | Tues | Michael J. Lewis, “The fiasco at ground zero”  
Marita Sturkin, “The aesthetics of absence: rebuilding ground zero”  
See also http://wtcsitememorial.org, www.freedomtower.som.com |
| Dec 7 | Fri  | **Long paper due**  
Discussion (no set reading) |
| Dec 11 | Tues | “Melrose space”, http://www.cftnm.ucsb.edu/mpart/ |
| Dec 14-21 | | **Final Exam** (date to be determined) |