

## Brief Course Outline

<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Beauty and the Sublime</b>
<b>Course Number and Section:</b>	GGB 3002G 550
<b>Instructor Name(s):</b>	Sara MacDonald
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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

Works of beauty move us, inspire us, and invoke our admiration. But why? And what does this mean about how we understand ourselves in relation to the world? In this course we will examine the place of beauty (natural and artistic) in a good human life. We will think about why some things claim almost universal approval as beautiful (sunrises, for one), while other things are entirely a matter of perspective and taste (like my handsome Ned.) We will seek to understand the ways in which beauty is necessary to the human condition and how the imagination, which is perhaps how we most easily “think beautifully” is connected to our reason, and more analytical capacities. Finally, we will seek to understand if and how our imaginations and our appreciation for the beautiful might be enhanced (much in the way that thinking enhances our capacity to think).

Oh – and we will read beautiful books, look at beautiful art, and listen to beautiful music.

### Learning Outcomes:

Students learn to read and think critically about the nature of beauty, both natural and artistic, and begin to understand how beauty is essential to a satisfying human life.

Students gain the ability to analyze ideas and situations, make considered decisions and form coherent, reasoned and fact-based judgements.

Students become familiar with a selection of the writings of the world’s influential writers, and acquire an understanding of the key components of various cultural traditions.

Students learn how to be clear and concise writers.

This course will prepare students for further courses in Global Great Books.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Plato, *The Phaedrus* Hackett 0872202208  
Elaine Scarry, *On Beauty and Being Just* Princeton University Press 0691089590  
Madeline Thien, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, W.W. Norton 039360988X  
Toni Morrison, *Jazz*, Vintage 1400076218  
Euripides, *Bacchae and Other Plays*, Oxford University Press 0199540527

## Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Reason and Imagination Project	02/16/24 and 03/15/24	25%
Essay	04/05/24	20%
Podcast	Throughout the term	20%
Song Presentation	Last week	15%
Finding Beauty in the Mundane	02/28/24	10%
Participation	Throughout the term	10%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, December 4, 2023