

Resemblance and Family Resemblance

*** Revised Syllabus ***

Course Description

This course will critically examine and explore the possibility of forms of unity and their representation that do not fit into any of the categories of representation traditionally allowed for by philosophers – such as the category of singular representation (such as intuitions or definite descriptions) or general representation (such as concepts or diagrams). The three main authors who explore the possibility of such anomalous forms of unity and their representation that we will discuss will be the German poet, philosopher and scientist, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the British psychologist, naturalist and theorist of photography, Francis Galton, and the Austrian philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Prerequisites

The only formal prerequisite for this course is at least one previous course in either philosophy or art history (or the equivalent thereof in the Committee on Visual Arts). The course will be open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Course Requirements

The course requirements for undergraduates and graduate students will be a final paper (10-15 pages) and a take-home final exam B each worth 50% of your final grade.

Readings

The following five books are required for the course and can be purchased at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore:

1. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Scientific Studies* (Goethe: The Collected Works, Vol. 12), Princeton University Press
2. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Theory of Colours*, M.I.T. Press
3. Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, Blackwell
4. Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Occasions*, Hackett Press
5. Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Remarks on Color*, Blackwell

Most of the readings for the course, however, will not be from the above books. In addition to the books, there will also be assigned articles for the class. Some of these will be available on electronic reserve at Regenstein library and the rest will be on Chalk. Additional readings will be added during the course of the term to both the electronic reserve holdings for the course and to the course Chalk website. If you miss any classes, you are responsible for getting in touch with one of the professors and keeping yourself informed with regard to any additional readings that may have been assigned.

Schedule of Course Meetings

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| Sept. 30 | Introductory remarks. |
| Oct. 2 | Kant on intuitions and concepts |
| Oct. 7 | Goethe on scientific method |
| Oct. 9 | Goethe's theory of biology |
| Oct. 14 | Goethe's theory of color |
| Oct. 16 | Gombrich's theory of resemblance |
| Oct. 21 | Goodman's critique of theories of resemblance |
| Oct. 23 | Gombrich's defense of his theory |
| Oct. 28 | Galton on composite portraiture |
| Oct. 30 | Galton on generic images |
| Nov. 4 | Galton on personal identification and description |
| Nov. 6 | Galton on the measurement of resemblance |
| Nov. 11 | Ginzburg on family resemblance |
| Nov. 13 | Daston & Galison on objectivity |
| Nov. 18 | Wittgenstein & Goethe |
| Nov. 20 | Wittgenstein on family resemblance |
| Nov. 25 | Wittgenstein & Galton |
| Nov. 27 | Thanksgiving |
| Dec. 2 | Wittgenstein on aspect-perception I |
| Dec. 4 | Wittgenstein on aspect-perception II |

Schedule of Reading Assignments

In the schedule of readings below, readings that are on electronic reserve are marked with a single asterisk; readings that are on Chalk are marked with a double asterisk. All other reading assignments are from the required texts for the course.

- Sept. 30 Introductory meeting.
- Oct. 2 Immanuel Kant, *Logic*, selections**
Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, selections**
- Oct. 7 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Scientific Studies*, selections
Goethe, *Theory of Colours*, selections
- Oct. 9 Goethe, *Scientific Studies*, further selections
Ernst Cassirer, “The Idea of Metamorphosis and Idealistic Morphology”*
- Oct. 14 Goethe, *Theory of Colours*, further selections
- Oct. 16 Ernst Gombrich, *Art and Illusion*, selections*
- Oct. 21 Nelson Goodman, Review of Gombrich’s *Art and Illusion**
Goodman, *Languages of Art*, chapter 1*
- Oct. 23 Gombrich, “Illusion and Art”*
Gombrich, “The ‘What’ and the ‘How’”*
- Oct. 28 Francis Galton, “Composite Portraits”**
Galton, *Inquiries into Human Faculty and Its Development*, selection**
- Oct. 30 Galton, “Composite Portraiture” (from *The Photographic Journal*)**
Galton, “Generic Images”**
Galton, “Composite Portraiture” (from *The Photographic News*)**
- Nov. 4 Galton, “Personal Identification and Description”**
- Nov. 6 Galton “The Measurement of Resemblance”**
- Nov. 11 Carlo Ginzburg, “Family Resemblances and Family Trees”**
- Nov. 13 Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison, “The Image of Objectivity”*
Galison, “Judgment against Objectivity”*
Galison, “Objectivity is Romantic”*

- Nov. 18 Wittgenstein, *Remarks on Color*, selections
Ray Monk, *Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius*, selection*
Mark Rowe, "Goethe and Wittgenstein"*
Joachim Schulte, "Goethe and Wittgenstein on Morphology"*
- Nov. 20 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, selections
Renford Bambrough, "Universals and Family Resemblances"*
Warren Goldfarb, "Wittgenstein on Fixity of Meaning"*
- Nov. 25 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Occasions*, selections
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, further selections
Stephen Mulhall, *On Being in the World*, selection*
Stephen Mulhall, "Seeing Aspects"*
Avner Baz, "What's the Point of Seeing Aspects?!"*
- Dec. 4 TBA