

Aesthetics Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Many of these titles can be found online. Those not available can be provided to you in the form of PDFs.

Classical Aesthetics

1. Plato, *Republic*, Book X.
2. Plato, *Ion*.
3. Aristotle, *Poetics*.

The Notion of Taste

1. Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste."
2. Kant, from the *Critique of Judgment*, Book 1 (Analytic of the Beautiful) of Division 1 (Analytic of Aesthetic Judgment) of Part 1 (Critique of Aesthetic Judgment).
3. Pierre Bourdieu, Introduction to *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*.

Phenomenology

1. Martin Heidegger, "The Origin of the Work of Art."
2. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "Cezanne's Doubt."

Critical Reflections on the Category of the Author

1. Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author."
2. Jacques Derrida, "Signature, Event, Context."
3. Michel Foucault, "What is an Author?"

Aesthetics and Social Theory

1. James Baldwin, *The Devil Finds Work*.
2. Max Horkheimer and Theodore W. Adorno, *The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception*.
3. Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility" (also translated as "The Work of Art in the Age of Technological Reproduction").

4. Jean-Paul Sartre, “Black Orpheus.”
5. Simone de Beauvoir, Chapter 1 of Part Three (Myths) of Volume 1 (Facts and Myths) of *The Second Sex*.
6. Simone de Beauvoir, “Brigitte Bardot and the Lolita Syndrome.”
7. Deleuze and Guattari, Chapter 3 of *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*, “What is a Minor Literature?”
8. Deleuze and Guattari, Chapter 8 of *A Thousand Plateaus*, “1874: Three Novellas or ‘What Happened?’”
9. Deleuze and Guattari, Chapter 11 of *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation*, “The Painting Before Painting.”