

Care Aesthetics

Code: 45072
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Care Philosophies	OB	1

Contact

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Teachers

Andrea Lorena Soto Calderon

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

To understand the place of sensitive perception in the formation of experience. To analyse how the arts are not only forms of knowledge of reality, but also an instrument for acting on it. To understand the multiple forms of representation of the problem of care in the artistic media, as well as the forms of agency that these contribute to the transformation of sensitivity. Interpret specific documentary sources in order to understand what the ethos of care consists of from critical-propositional orientations.

Learning Outcomes

1. CA16 (Competence) [pendent traducció a en] Demostrar capacidad para el trabajo autónomo, el autoanálisis y la autocrítica en el contexto de los debates sobre las prácticas artísticas vanguardistas
2. KA22 (Knowledge) [pendent traducció a en] Identificar la representación de la problemática del cuidado a través del análisis de obras de arte
3. KA23 (Knowledge) [pendent traducció a en] Explicar la utilidad del concepto de cuidado educativo en las prácticas artísticas, para solventar conflictos y reducir discriminaciones
4. KA24 (Knowledge) [pendent traducció a en] Analizar la función de la filosofía como forma de vida y de autotransformación en el contexto de la ética y la estética del cuidado

5. SA24 (Skill) [pendent traducció a en] Investigar las prácticas artísticas contemporáneas que tienen un carácter inclusivo y socialmente implicado desde la perspectiva de la ética del cuidado
6. SA25 (Skill) [pendent traducció a en] Evaluar el impacto social de la educación artística en el contexto de la estética aplicada y la filosofía de la educación
7. SA26 (Skill) [pendent traducció a en] Evaluar críticamente el origen y la fiabilidad de las fuentes documentales específicas de la filosofía de la educación, la estética aplicada y la biopolítica
8. SA27 (Skill) [pendent traducció a en] Comunicar las conclusiones teóricas y las propuestas prácticas de forma clara, ordenada, sintética y argumentada a partir de la experiencia con las herramientas virtuales de enseñanza y difusión
9. SA28 (Skill) [pendent traducció a en] Aplicar las metodologías de aprendizaje colaborativo para relacionar la práctica artística contemporánea con las teorías filosóficas del cuidado

Content

Alongside the Ethics of Care, we can speak of an Aesthetics of Care that defends the thesis that the arts are not only forms of knowledge of reality, but are also an instrument for acting on reality. The subject has two distinct but complementary parts:

In the first part, on the one hand, the multiple forms of representation of the problem of care in the various artistic media are studied. On the other hand, the forms of agency over the problems of care developed by performative artistic practices are studied.

In the second part, the ethos of care is studied from a theoretical-practical perspective, taking as a reference concrete classical and contemporary cases that refer to current individual and collective experiences.

- The ethos of care.
- Contemporary multidisciplinary critical-propositional orientations.
- The ethos of power in its practical orientation.

Contents

The course will be organised around three blocks of issues:

Block 1

The affective turn

In the first block of this subject we will undertake a conceptual development of the philosophy of care in relation to aesthetics, exploring notions such as harm and practices of healing, paying particular attention to the complex mechanisms by which experience is formed, and we will therefore analyse some of the main contributions to the debate made by the so-called affective turn. However, the exploration here is directed towards the conceptual dimensions of care that inform specific care activities and practices. As Yuriko Saito argues, "while the relevance of ethical considerations may be evident in elder care, child care and medical care, the aesthetic relevance of care may not be so obvious" (Saito, 2022), nevertheless, these considerations are deeply embedded in the management of our everyday lives and may define the way we relate to other human beings, nature or the artefactual world. Human beings are aesthetic creatures, our relationship with the world is realised through perception and sensibility.

Boris Groys argues that "we live in a culture that tends to thematise the bodies of desire and to ignore the bodies of care", a society where caring for others and oneself is considered unproductive yet the most important and necessary work (Groys, 2022). Therefore, we will focus on a conceptual analysis and artistic practices in which we can understand the place of aesthetics in a philosophy of care.

Readings

Yuriko Saito, *Aesthetics of Care : Practice in Everyday Life*, Trade Paperback, 2022 [fragmentos seleccionados].

Boris Groys, *Filosofía del cuidado*, Caja Negra, Buenos Aires, 2022[fragmentos seleccionados].

Fabienne Brugère, *La ética del cuidado*, Metales Pesados, Santiago de Chile, 2022[fragmentos seleccionados].

Adriana Cavarero, *Inclinaciones. Crítica a la rectitud*, Fragmenta, Barcelona, 2022, [fragmentos seleccionados]

Sara Ahmed, *La política cultural de las emociones*. Mexico D.F: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Programa Universitario de Estudios de Género, 2015 [fragmentos seleccionados]

Alí Lara, Giazú Enciso, "The Affective Turn". Athenea Digital. Revista de pensamiento e investigación social, 13(3), 101.doi: <https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/>, 2013.

Block 2

Art and life

The concept of care has redefined the boundaries between our bodies, collective structures and our environments in multiple disciplines. In this thematic axis we would like to examine how the work of care is central to current artistic practices, shifting the monumental understanding of art towards one centred on experiences, on the intimate alliances between the built environment and its material, social and cultural practices. In particular, the interest in developing new forms of care, at the intersection between space, subjectivity and interdependence.

Readings

Suely Rolnik, *¿El arte cura?* Quaderns portàtils, MACBA, 2001.

Déborah Danowski; Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, "Is There Any World to Come?", Revista e-flux, núm 65, mayo 2015.

Jaime Vindel, *Estética fósil. Imaginarios de la energía y crisis ecosocial*, Arcadia, Barcelona, 2020 [fragmentos seleccionados].

VV.AA, *La condición postnatural. Glorsario de ecologías para otros mundos posibles*, Cthulhu Books, 2024, [fragmentos seleccionados].

Eyal Weizman, *Arquitectura forense: violencia en el umbral de detectabilidad*, Bartlebooth, 2020 [fragmentos seleccionados].

Block 3

The ethos of care

Iliana Fokianaki argues that it is evident that where there was a welfare state this model has been dismantled: health care especially for the most dispossessed and unemployed, physical and mental health care, especially for those who are differently abled, the elderly, victims of domestic abuse, and at a more conceptual level, attention to social justice, social justice partnerships, intersectional partnerships and environmental justice. For so long we have been depriving citizens of care and attention, yet new forms of production capitalise on the individualistic notion of care, widely promoted as "self-care" through an industry with billions in revenue.

In reality, however, they are less and less interested in the well-being of bodies outside the immediate sphere of their family, class, workplace, city, country and continent. People are increasingly burdened with individual responsibility for their own care, as care has lost its character as a human right and become a paid service. Through a total disregard for the politics and ethics of care, contemporary forms of power clearly wish to

banish the commons of collective consciousness. At the same time they annihilate all possibilities for people to come together, to debate, to organise in order to resist these narratives that are not just the production of discourse but of ways of life.

Readings

iLiana Fokianaki, "The Bureau of Care: Introductory Notes on the Care-less and Care-full", Revista e-flux, núm 113, noviembre 2020.

iLiana Fokianaki, "A Bureau for Self-Care: Interdependence versus Individualism", Revista e-flux, núm 119, junio 2021.

Chus Martínez, "The Octopus in Love", Revista e-flux, núm 55, Mayo, 2014.

Juan Martín Prada, "¿Capitalismo afectivo?" Revista EXIT Book, núm. 15, 2011.

Judith Butler; Athena Athanasiou, Desposesión. Lo performativo en lo político, Paidós, Barcelona, 2022 [fragmentos seleccionados].

Simon O'sullivan, "The Aesthetics of affect thinking art beyond representation", Revista Angelaki, Journal of theoretical humanities, Vo. 6, núm. 3, diciembre 2001.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
<hr/>			
Type: Supervised			
Mentoring, micro-group and individual tutoring	20	0.8	
Visits to exhibitions, art events, quizzes, contribution to forum discussions	20	0.8	
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Type: Autonomous			
Individual and group reading, concept and developmental mapping	100	4	
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The methodology used will mainly involve the reading, analysis and interpretation of texts, as well as discussions and exchanges in which to think through artistic practices. The scope of the reflection is not intended to be descriptive or explanatory, but rather to be applied. Therefore, the aim is to work on the development of skills that will make it possible to approach current problems from a situated point of view, whether through the analysis of cases, audiovisual material or other means. The work process will ultimately be an attempt, an essay in shared thinking. Hence, the research will be developed in a double context: from the analysis of texts and from a material research.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Podcast	33%	3	0.12	SA25, SA26, SA27, SA28
Visual essay	34%	4	0.16	KA23, KA24, SA24, SA25
Written essay	33%	3	0.12	CA16, KA22, KA23, SA27

Continuous Assessment, consisting of:

- a) A presentation in visual essay format in which the affective turn is analysed, according to the theoretical framework worked on in class, putting conceptual developments into operation (33.3%) (Maximum 10 min).
- b) The production of an 8-minute audio, as if it were a podcast for a radio programme, in which a work of art will be analysed from the link between art and life, applying the conceptual developments that have been developed (33.3%) (Maximum 15 minutes).
- c) The completion of a written essay in which a propositional critique of the ethos of care will be developed (33.3%). The exact dates of the deliveries will be announced on the first days of class. Similarly, a rubric with the evaluation criteria will be available at the beginning of each block.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

In this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is not allowed in any of its phases. Any work that includes fragments generated with AI will be considered a lack of academic honesty and will result in the activity being graded with a 0 and not being recoverable, or higher penalties in serious cases.

This subject does not incorporate single assessment.

Bibliography

Yuriko Saito, *Aesthetics of Care : Practice in Everyday Life*, Trade Paperback, 2022 [fragmentos seleccionados].

Boris Groys, *Filosofía del cuidado*, Caja Negra, Buenos Aires, 2022[fragmentos seleccionados].

Fabienne Brugère, *La ética del cuidado*, Metales Pesados, Santiago de Chile, 2022[fragmentos seleccionados].

Adriana Cavarero, *Inclinaciones. Crítica a la rectitud*, Fragmenta, Barcelona, 2022, [fragmentos seleccionados]

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Simon O'sullivan, "The Aesthetics of affect thinking art beyond representation", Revista Angelaki, Journal of theoretical humanities, Vo. 6, núm. 3, diciembre 2001.

During the course of the course, references to recommended bibliography will be handed out.

Software

No especific software is needed.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.