

## ARTH 383 - Art & Philosophy

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### Lecture 5 - Kant's Third Critique and Contemporary Perspectives

- Contrary to Empiricists, Kant believes there are a priori conditions (such as time and space)
- 'the judgment of taste is reflective' > judging a thing is more about the form of the judgment rather than the object
- Bourdieu - french sociologist major figure
- influenced by Marx, Max Weber
  - democracy/legal & political equality are principles, not real state
- there are dominant and dominated classes
- society (social stratification) is not only created by economic factors
- the spaces of social positions (space metaphors)
- many kinds of capital
  - cultural capital: intellectual/educational, language
  - symbolic capital: i.e.. doctor; trustworthy, symbolize authority
  - social capital: relations and connections
- high cultural and economic capital > legitimate culture > high art, opera, classics, etc.
- modernity is autonomization of legitimate practice from social factors
- transition of taste denotes modernization of art (19th C)
- division of labour factors in autonomization
  - (ALL) struggle for social recognition
- agents (= members) and institutions (= rules) define a field
- choices only have meaning as opposed to others
- cultural/social goods > differentiate from other groups
- END > the agents quest for distinction/domination in social field > 'capital' acquisition'

- “habitus” - self conception of what we do
  - rationalization of our own actions as exercising if free will
  - ex. if I like Boulet, it’s my decision
    - non-consciousness (social) > NOT unconscious
  - we believe it’s free choice based on personal reflection, not influenced by outside forces (social origins, education, etc.) > these are acquired and interiorized
- 2 dimensions of Habitus:
  - ETHOS (intellectual) > values applied non-consciously. morals.
  - HEXUS (physical reflexes) > physical dispositions acquired and interiorized
    - ie. table manners, accent, how you move
- taste is used to acquire social position in field
- judgement of taste used to mark ones social position
  - self-judgement
  - purpose of culture > means to ensure social domination
- B: legitimate culture imposed on society that others seek to aspire to emulate
- culture is class struggle > for social identity
  - so taste relative to hers occupation (social origin), education, culture capital
- “social mobility” > social origin to current social status
- expressions of taste > destination of genres
  - ie. fine arts vs crafts, high art vs kitsch
- consumers of culture are judged by their choices
- legit taste, middle taste and popular taste
  - corresponds to 3 classes of society
- sentiment appeals to low brow sensibility
  - Kant judgment of the beautiful not based on emotion/‘charm’
    - practical/ethical element

- Bordieu critique of Kant > making of legitimate culture
  - dominant class favours formal composition
  - low class favours subject
- Negation of Inferior Pleasure
  - art/artistic consumption fulfill legitimation of social class
  - quest for distinction
- B: we should abolish concept of autonomy and legitimate culture
- how we look at art/social ... not all on same level
  - scope of inquiry should be widened to understand
    - biases on part of interrogators in data collection
- issues for B: all form of Kant's judgement is all the same
  - misses distinction. function of universality can't be explained by Bordieu
  - also cant account for where legitimate culture originates, while Kant does/tries.

#### James Clifford

- similar point of view to Bordieu
- judgment of taste from CULTURAL a priori
- The Family Man 1955, curated by Edward Steichen
  - sentimental, ethnobiographical
- Clifford examines exhibition practices
  - interested in paratextual elements, narratives, historical relationship with domination on display with ethno-artifacts, origin of objects.
    - objects are either 'art' (formal) or ethnographic specimens (low)
- non-'western' ethnic cultures shown as being 'past'
  - de-legitimized in culture > Post Colonial theory