

ALT 400: Literary Aesthetics

Unit Description

This unit is a systematic investigation of aesthetic theory and literary creativity in the context of various social, cultural and historical conditions in which they develop. The formulations of various aestheticians will be examined and critically applied to specific literary works from Africa and the African Diaspora.

Unit Objectives

- ❖ To establish the place of aesthetics in literary study.
- ❖ To expose students to the Platonic postulation of literary aesthetics.
- ❖ To arouse and enhance the appreciation of Literature as a tool for social communication and spiritual fulfilment.
- ❖ To deepen the understanding of the theoretical questions involved in literary aesthetics and their practical implications in the creation and appreciation of literary works.
- ❖ To analyse the elements of literary aesthetics in selected texts.

References

- ✓ Plato. (2002). *The Republic*. <http://www.idph.net>
- ✓ Kant, Immanuel. (2013). *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated by J. M. D. Meiklejohn. An Electronic Classics Series Publication: PSUP.
- ✓ Raymond, Williams (1963). *Culture and Society*. New York: CUP.
- ✓ Richards, I. A. (1930) *Practical Criticism*. The Open Archive.