



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA**

**DIPARTIMENTO DI DISCIPLINE
UMANISTICHE, SOCIALI E DELLE
IMPRESE CULTURALI**

**RESEARCH DOCTORATE
IN PHILOLOGICAL-LITERARY, HISTORICAL-PHILOSOPHICAL AND ARTISTIC SCIENCES**

DISCIPLINARY/INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE/LABORATORY

TITLE: "Aesthetic experience and its feminist implications: John Dewey and Charlotte Perkins Gilman"

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Federica Gregoratto

CFU:

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

What is an experience? Who does 'have' (or 'undergo') an experience and which kind of things can we experience? What are the conditions and consequences of an experience? In one of his most groundbreaking works, *Art as Experience*, the American philosopher John Dewey outlines answers that are worth considering for a number of reasons. In particular, we will concentrate on the ways in which his original notion of aesthetic experience does contribute to overcome a series of dualisms that are deeply rooted in the Western philosophical tradition as well as in Western society: body vs. mind, passivity vs. activity, emotions vs. reasons, reception (or consumption) vs. production, etc. Moreover, we will discuss whether such a perspective might be useful for conceiving of individual and societal transformation with regard to gender oppression. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" – a feminist classic – will serve as our test bed in this context.

CALENDAR:

November 6th, h. 16-19 (Aula Frege)

November 7th, h. 10-13 (Aula Frege)



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SUGGESTED READINGS

John Dewey, *Art as Experience* (1934), Chapters 1, 2, 3, 14.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1892), “The Yellow Wallpaper”.