

The Arts Master Syllabus

Cluster

Communication and Creative Expression

Categories in this cluster—Writing, Oral Communication, Literature, and Arts—are designed to cultivate a student’s capacity to appreciate, analyze, and engage the human experience in its diverse creative forms. In some courses, students will develop their capacities to move, educate, convince, and entertain audiences; tell their own stories; reflect on their learning; discover and reveal attitudes and feelings; defend beliefs, opinions, and interpretations; and contribute in diverse, creative, and meaningful ways to the lives of those with whom they live and work. Other classes will develop students’ abilities to identify and analyze the formal and thematic features of a variety of artistic and literary works and to explain how the creation and reception of those works was influenced by aesthetic, cultural, historical, and social factors. All of the courses in this category will develop students’ ability to use methods of human expression—to invent, design, write, speak, and perform—in creative and effective ways. In short, the courses in this cluster will help students probe for deeper understanding and meaning in the cultural works they encounter and to create meaning through their own artistic works and their written and spoken communication.

Core Goal Served in this Category

Goal 4: To cultivate students’ capacity to appreciate, analyze, and engage the human experience in its many creative forms.

Core Learning Outcomes

A student completing a course in the Arts category will be able to

1. Identify and analyze the formal and thematic features of a variety of artistic and literary works (Core Goal 4.1)
2. Situate an artistic or literary work in a larger context (Core Goal 4.2)
3. Develop creative capacities through inventing, designing, writing, or performing (Core Goal 4.3)

Catalog Description / Introduction

The arts—a diverse range of human activities, creations, and expressions that appeal to the senses or emotions—are important constituents of human culture. Vital to a liberal arts education, studying the seven lively arts—architecture, painting, sculpture, dance, drama, music, and literature—provides students with not just a deeper understanding and appreciation for the intrinsic value of creative expression, but also with an opportunity to more fully explore the experiences, concerns, desires, and emotions shared by the human community. Studying the arts has practical implications as well, since success in many professional fields relies in part on the

dispositions that studying the arts can provide: a deeper sense of empathy, for example, or a stronger desire to create and sustain beauty in the world. In short, studying the arts can give students tools for making a more productive and satisfying life. Offered each semester. 3 hours. 3 credits

Intangibles / Aspirations / Other Category-Level Elements

In addition to the outcomes assessed in this category, other Core outcomes might be developed and addressed by various courses in the Arts. Skills, competencies, and dispositions relevant to the field might also be cultivated in this category.

- Develop students' skills in writing, speaking, critical inquiry/analysis, and information literacy/technological competency (Core Goal 1)
- Throughout the artistic process, wonder, ponder, and ask thoughtful and insightful questions (Core Goal 7.1)
- Exercise imagination to develop, express, and extend ideas (Core Goal 7.3)
- As a result of thinking deeply about an artistic subject or mode, probe for deeper meaning and understanding of the material (Core Goal 7.5)

Teaching Methods and Assessment

Instructors in the Arts category are tasked with creating in the student a greater understanding and appreciation for art as a medium through which the human condition can be contemplated and understood, and with increasing the student's visceral experience of the act of creating a piece of art. We are teaching them about an art form—its techniques, styles, and masters—and asking them to create an artistic piece of their own that will undergo some measure of peer review. It is only through the process of evaluation that a student will gain the visceral experience associated with the creation of art and the role of the artist in society.

Arts is a very general term to encompass many different courses being taught in the Arts category. There are courses that deal more with lecture and appreciation-based subject matter, and courses that are more studio- or performance-based. Instead of separating these courses into two specific tracks, instructors are asked to combine elements of each into every course. For this reason every instructor is asked to create specific assessments that satisfy the department's outcomes and goals.

Specific examples of these types of assessments include tests, quizzes, papers, reflections, group and plenary work, etc. Creative assessment should include a public review component. For example, performances should be open to the public, visual media should be placed in an exhibition setting, written work should be presented to classmates or at a reading, and so forth.

Because Arts courses can be assessed in an extremely subjective manner, all assignments must include a rubric, and, when possible, example works should be shared with students. A master rubric is provided. Instructors should create assignment and course specific rubrics using the master rubric as a guideline.

Texts

Texts are chosen by the instructor.

Additional Information / Resources for Instructors

Can be found on the category website

Courses

Arts courses are subdivided into the following categories:

100s Theatre

110s Dance and Music

120s Art

130s Photography and Film

140s Writing

ARTS 100s - THEATRE

Students will be introduced to various aspects of the theatre arts, both performance and technical. Students will develop an appreciation for this most collaborative of art forms through various production and performance courses. Through in class discussions, exercises, and performances, as well as attendance of theatrical events, students will increase their ability to analyze and interpret a piece of theatre. Courses in this category include:

ARTS 102 — Acting for Non-Theatre Majors (3) This course serves as an in-depth introduction to the craft of acting for the non-actor. This course will lead to an experience that will deepen the students' understanding of basic creative techniques. Acting is studied as an art of self-expression and communication and will enhance the students' understanding of the creative process and the role of imagination in it. All students will be introduced to beginning acting techniques to develop, define, and practice the artistic expression with interest and technical proficiency. Improvisation and classroom exercises will provide a foundation in acting techniques. Students will learn to use the voice and body as instruments of self-expression and communication in performance and will develop mental, physical, and vocal flexibility through acting with words, acting without words, ensemble work, characterization, and experimentation.

ARTS 103— The Art of Improvisation (3) This course is an introduction to improvisational acting techniques for the non-actor leading to self-discovery of the student's potential in imagination, creativity, and spontaneity. Students will learn the foundation of improvisation to help the actor to convey artistically the written text. This course will help equip the non-actor with the tools to be self-sufficient and to think from the heart of originality and inspiration. This course will lead the student into the world of public life with confidence, self-reliance, and assurance with communication skills that will enrich the experience.

ARTS 104 — The Theatre: An Introduction (3) The aesthetics of theatre as an art of self-expression, imagination and communication will be explored. Students will gain an understanding of the creative process of theatre from both a performance and design perspective. Through textbook readings, videos, class discussions, and viewing/critiquing live performances, students develop a basic theatre vocabulary and an appreciation for this most collaborative of art forms. The function of the theatre will be investigated, allowing students to analyze, appreciate, and create their own performance piece.

ARTS 110s - DANCE AND MUSIC

Dance Students will be introduced to various aspects of dance performance and appreciation. Students will develop an appreciation for the history of dance and dancers, and increase their ability to analyze and interpret the use of the human body as a means of expression. Courses are designed to explore the proper technique appropriate for various periods and styles of dance, such as movement, jazz, modern, and tap, and will deal with style, retention of steps, body line, how to count and other basic dance necessities. Courses in this category include:

ARTS 111— Ballet (3) A Ballet class for the beginner through experienced level dancer. This course incorporates lecture/demonstration and dance exercises designed to explore the movement dynamics appropriate for ballet dance presentation. Barre, stretch, and center exercises are included with ballet terminology and technique. There will be lecture and discussion on Ballet choreographers and composers to present the history of ballet. Every student builds on knowledge and technical skills and develops group awareness while introducing the individual to their own movement potential. An understanding of proper ballet training and technique as a foundation of poise, flexibility, physical stamina and a form of artistic expression is paramount to this course and valuable qualities for the dancing profession.

ARTS 112 — Jazz Dance (3) This introductory course in jazz dance incorporates lecture/demonstration and dance exercises designed to explore the proper technique appropriate for a jazz dance presentation. Special emphasis will be given to the different styles of jazz dance from swing to theatrical to modern day hip-hop. This course is designed for the beginner through the intermediate level.

Music Appreciation and Theory Students will be introduced to various aspects of music theory and composition. Students will develop an appreciation for the history of music and musicians, and increase their ability to analyze and interpret music as an art form and means of expression. Courses are open to students of all skill levels; the ability to read music is not a prerequisite. Course work will include note reading, rhythms, chord progressions, and four-part writing among other topics, as well as analyzing musical compositions.

ARTS 113 — Music Appreciation (3) This course will serve as an introduction to the various genres, styles, periods, composers, and materials of music. Readings, music listening, and written assignments provide students with opportunities to develop their abilities to interpret diverse forms of musical expression.

ARTS 114 — Contemporary Music (3) An introduction to the musical elements of popular music. This course explores the nature of rhythm, meter, syncopation, form, instrumentation, vocal, and instrumental style and a historical survey of rock, pop, and soul music, tracing their development from roots in blues, jazz, gospel, and country music to the music of today. No previous musical knowledge or experience is assumed.

Music Performance Students will be introduced to various aspects of vocal and instrumental music performance. Students will develop an appreciation of performance through the study of the instrument and great performers. Courses are open to students of all skill levels. Course work will include basic music reading ability, instrumental/vocal techniques, and individual and group performance work.

ARTS 115 — Guitar Performance (3) This introductory course in guitar performance will strive to improve students' skills in music performance. Students will be able to begin playing the guitar or continue previous instruction throughout the semester. Each student will be required to perform in a recital during the semester of study.

ARTS 116 — Fundamental Vocal Technique (3) Students enrolled in this course will study the fundamentals of vocal technique and production, such as posture, breath support, diction, anatomy/health of the voice, effective practice, and other topics. Classes will be lecture and performance based. Students will be expected to sing in each class and to learn several pieces culminating in a recital at the end of the semester. Students wishing to enroll in the course are expected to be able to read musical notation on a basic level.

ARTS 120s—ART

Art History and Appreciation Students will be introduced to various aspects of appreciation and analysis of numerous visual art media. Students will develop an appreciation for the history of visual art and artists, and increase their ability to analyze and interpret visual art as a means of expressing the social, political, and cultural trends of the period in which it was created. Course work will include an introduction to the diverse aspects of art such as its components, media and techniques, and content. Courses in this category include:

ARTS 121— Art History: Classic Themes in Western Art (3) This course surveys basic themes of art within Western Civilization. Artists through the ages have portrayed basic stories, drawn from myth, religion, and history, that show people's realities and fantasies, fears and hopes. These stories reflect the concerns of the past, while they often resonate with us today, and provide a foundation of a common culture. Students will read key stories from our heritage (especially from the Bible and Greek Mythology), look at and interpret art about them, and analyze their impact on our culture. We will draw especially on the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions to provide a basis for appreciating art, its changing styles and techniques, and ourselves.

ARTS 122: Arts Appreciation (3)

Students will be introduced to various aspects of appreciation and analysis of numerous visual art media. Students will develop an appreciation for the history of visual art and artists and increase their ability to analyze and interpret visual art as a means of expressing

the social, political, and cultural trends of the period in which it was created. Course work will include an introduction to the diverse aspects of art such as its components, media and techniques, and content.

Visual Arts Students will be introduced to various fundamentals of visual art including: understanding and using organizing principles of art such as composition (form/function), observation and analysis, drawing, painting, basic color theory, sculpture, textiles, photography. Students will develop an appreciation of visual art through the study of artists and their work. Courses in this category include:

ARTS 123 — Drawing and Dry Media (3) Introductory course concerned with the fundamentals of drawing in order to develop creative capacities and gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual cultural activity. Course is designed to guide the student to develop skills in drawing from life and the imagination and in pictorial composition. Students will discover means of expressing mood, emotion, abstract concepts and movement, as well as developing personal style.

ARTS 124 — Painting and Wet Media (3) Painting and Wet Media is a three-credit course concerned with the fundamentals of painting, such as observation, basic painting techniques, composition, and painting media. Students will examine and analyze the work of master painters and synthesize the techniques into their own artwork.

ARTS 125 — Graphic Design (3) Students will learn about art history, including specific eras, movements, artists' philosophies and techniques and the relevance to practical applications today, such as marketing and advertising. This course utilizes lecture and hands-on experience with industry standard Adobe Creative Suite software. Students will design classic and contemporary works, such as movie posters and book covers while emulating the techniques of Renaissance, medieval and contemporary artists through a range of styles from medieval manuscripts, cutting-edge contemporary cartoon illustration and urban graffiti.

ARTS 130s—PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM STUDIES

ARTS 131 — Art of Photography (3) Introduces the basic skills and concepts involved in black and white photography. These include film exposure, processing, printing and print finishing, and issues of composition, as well as development of a vocabulary with which to discuss images. Format is divided between lecture/critique and darkroom lab hours. This course is appropriate for the beginning photography student. Note: Student must also register for one of the two lab periods: 173PL

ARTS 135 — Introduction to Film Studies (3) A critical introduction of major concepts of film through study of selected films and film genres. This course will introduce the student to some major concepts in film studies and film language (editing, cinematography, sound, special effects, etc.) and narrative film structure. Course will culminate in an understanding of the many ways films produce meaning through critical interpretations and deep analysis. Film Studies courses are taught thematically each semester, focusing on specific genres or the work of specific directors. *Course themes have included: Horror,*

The Western, Comedy, Polish Cinema, Stanley Kubrick, The Coen Brothers, Martin Scorsese, and Wes Anderson.

ARTS 140s—WRITING

ART 141 — Imaginative Writing (3) These introductory writing courses will ask students to work in several genres, including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or drama. Class focuses on defining good writing and encouraging a process approach. Students will be asked to work through multiple drafts of work and participate in group editing sessions. *Courses include general creative writing themes as well as targeted themes for various disciplines including Video Game Narrative.*