

Arts and Aesthetics courses

Through the study of and participation in the arts, students have the opportunity to explore a fundamental and universal aspect of humanity, the aesthetic impulse that inspires the creation of works that go beyond pure function. The arts are a vehicle for discovering and investigating value and meaning within one's own culture as well as of other cultures. Students who study and participate in the arts learn to observe, listen and experience from multiple points of view. They also learn to analyze what lies behind a work of art and to respond to a work of art in a substantive way.

Course Criteria and Learning Outcomes

Courses that qualify for arts and aesthetics credit will

1. help students become active observers/listeners of art;
2. introduce students to a substantial body of artistic work;
3. include systematic instruction in analytical approaches that are appropriate to the particular artistic discipline;
4. involve training of all the senses and the cultivation of sensory awareness.
5. relate works of art to historical and cultural contexts;
6. require projects that demonstrate understanding and synthesis of the content of the course.

Student outcomes:

As a result of their work in arts and aesthetics courses, students will be able to

1. recognize qualities and values in works of art;
2. recognize distinctive traits of particular artistic genres;
3. discuss important issues surrounding a work of art or the performance of a work of art;
4. look beyond the surface appearance of a work of art for deeper levels of meaning;
5. discuss works of art in terms of their historical and cultural contexts.

NOTE: The above information was modeled on the criteria set forth for literature courses in the general education curriculum.