FAR 281 – Introduction to Fine Arts
3 Credits

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Course Description: An introduction to fine arts with emphasis on appreciation of the visual and the performing arts from the audience perspective. This course fulfills one aesthetic requirement for the Doane Plan.

Text: There is no text for the course. There will be minimal fees for the performances the student attends.

Course Objectives:

1. View a variety of performing and visual arts.
2. Develop the ability to reflect on art and verbalize knowledge or interpretation.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the value of fine arts and fine art facilities on the entire community.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communication effectively through written essays.

Assignments:

1. Attend three performances or art shows representing three different disciplines.

   Get permission from instructor before attending a performance to be sure it meets the course requirements. Suggestions include but are not limited to:
   • Grand Island Little Theatre or other community playhouse
   • Prairie Winds or other art gallery (not craft shop)
   • A performance at the Lied Center or other facility outside the area
   • One performance may be a movie at the Grand Theatre because of its historical significance and its operation as a non-profit, volunteer run organization. The essay (referenced in #2) would need to include information about the operating structure and the history as well as the other essay requirements
   • One performance may be at the high school level. The essay (referenced in #2) would need to include background on the group, requirements to participate and how the performance enhances education as well as the other essay requirements

2. Write a formal essay for each of the three performances/art shows including all the sections identified below: (3-5 pages)
   • The history of the group, artist and/or facility
   • Brief description of the performance or show
• Your perception of the performance/display
• Feelings evoked by the performance/display
• Any knowledge you gained about the operation of the theatre/gallery. For example, is this a non-profit or for profit organization, are membership available, how are artists selected, how is the organization or performance funded
• Your perception of the value added to the community
• Social, cultural or societal issues that were represented
• New vocabulary acquired

3. Final Project

a. Write a final essay telling of your aesthetic growth or new perceptions that you have developed during this course. (2-3 pages)

b. Research one national level gallery, production or display. Write an essay (2-3 pages). Reference your resources.

Grading: Performance Essay 1: 25 points
Performance Essay 2: 25 points
Performance Essay 3: 25 points
Final Project: 25 points (for parts a and b combined)

All assignments are due by July 20. I suggest that you turn in assignments as you complete them. This way I can give you immediate feedback before you begin the next paper. If students choose to turn in assignments by May 1 or before I will be happy to review the assignments and make suggestions. Students may then make changes in their assignments and resubmit by July 20.

Grading Scale: 100 – 90 A
89 - 80 B
79 - 70 C
69 - 60 D
59 - 0 F

The Doane Academic Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.