FAR 281 – Introduction to Fine Arts (3 Credits)

*Fulfills one Doane Plan aesthetic requirement or one requirement for a Foundational Area of Knowledge in Human Creativity.*

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FAR 281 Introduction to Fine Arts fulfills the requirement for a Foundational Area of Knowledge in Human Creativity. Any course that fulfills this requirement assures that students will understand the complex layers of the creative process, its reflection of human society and its power to impact.

**Learning Outcomes** - Students will work to:

1. Interpret artistic and/or aesthetic expression
2. Develop skills in self-expression through the production of their own creative work, or the critical analysis of others’ work
3. Use their insights to articulate the role of creativity in the examination of the human condition

FAR 281 will seek to accomplish all of these outcomes, with the greatest emphases on Learning Outcome #1.

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

Course Description: An introduction to fine arts with emphasis on appreciation of the visual and the performing arts from the audience perspective.

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 communicate effectively through written essays.

Learning Strategies:

This is an online course. Students will choose a variety of performances or art centers to attend. Students will respond to a series of prompts in formal 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, Omaha Community Playhouse or other community playhouse
- Art galleries like Prairie Winds, Joslyn, etc. (not craft shop)
- A performance at the Lied Center, Holland Center for the Performing Arts or other such venue
- One performance may be a movie at the Grand Theatre (or other such non-traditional art venue) 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 or college 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 as many of the topics identified below as possible: (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.
Assessment:
Grades will be based on quality of writing as well content based on the topics listed above.

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 May 9. I suggest that you turn in assignments as you complete them.

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.