

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

HUMN 25603 Humanities through the Arts

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

An introduction to the arts in Western civilization and their relationship to basic humanistic ideas. In addition to serving as an introduction to music, painting, sculpture, architecture, and literature (drama and poetry), the course explores fundamental principles and ideas of Western culture and how these are expressed in each of the artistic disciplines. Basic writing, research, and computer skills are beneficial. (ACTS: ARTA 1003)

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. List, define and apply the elements, principles, and methods of various art forms such as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, dance, drama and film.
2. Identify the styles, types and genres associated with major historical eras.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of a specific art style through active participation in a case study.
4. Conduct library and/or field research on assigned topics and organize the results into a critical essay and/or classroom presentation.
5. Categorize and list principal values of Western culture according to their time period and explain how they are expressed in works of art.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills
Critical Thinking

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of a musical performance.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Historical definitions of the arts
- B. Elements and principles of the arts
 - 1. Visual Art – 2-D
 - 2. Visual Art – 3-D
 - 3. Music
 - 4. Architecture
 - 5. Literature/Poetry
 - 6. Theatre
 - 7. Film

- 8. Dance
- 9. Other arts
- C. The history of arts in the West
- D. A case study of a selected arts topic