

Performing and Interpreting the Arts

From the GE Document

Performing and Interpreting the Arts (i.e., Music, Art, Theatre Arts) Courses satisfying this requirement develop students' understanding of the fine arts and performing arts, including music, visual arts, theatre, or dance. Such courses develop and expand perceptual faculties, develop physical practices integral to the art form, and explore the critical principles which guide artists in the area.

From the Supplemental Document

Interpretive Statement

While historical perspectives on an art form are desirable, these perspectives alone are not sufficient to qualify a course in this area. Students should be engaged in the production of at least a modest amount of art as a means of increasing their own abilities to produce art and of understanding the process by which artists create. On the other hand, studio courses will not generally fulfill this requirement since they do not provide sufficient reflection on the general principles underlying artistic production.

TEACHING OUTCOMES

II. Common Inquiries, 3. Performing and Interpreting the Arts”

At Westmont, General Education courses in the arts fuse both interpretive and "making" aspects of the art forms in question. It is not enough to simply learn about a form; rather, students need to participate directly in its making, and use creative and critical faculties toward the creation of at least one work in a semester long course. In this way, students learn aesthetic judgment and decision making through nested interpretive and creative processes. In other words, students display knowledge and methods related to two halves of the artistic enterprise -- interpretive faculties necessary to be good audiences for art, and creative ones necessary for the making of art.

Core Outcomes

In thinking, speaking, and writing students will display improvement in the following areas:

- Language and terminology for varying artistic types, forms, movements*
- Methods and processes for analyzing, interpreting, and enjoying artistic production*

In their making and performing students will demonstrate improvement in the following areas:

- Creative / interpretive methods for artistic production and expressiveness*
- Physical processes and manifestations necessary for artistic realization and production*

Desired Outcomes:

- Ability to articulate standards of judgment related to artistic quality and value*
- Imaginative handling of subject matter and medium toward a desired end*
- Necessary techniques and appropriate conventions for effective transmission and communication*
- Openness to an understanding of the multi-faceted nature of aesthetic enjoyment and judgment*
- Mastery of proper technical language*