

COURSE OUTLINE

FINE-103

Introduction to the Creative Arts

3 Semester Hours

Humanities Core Course

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course will introduce the students to the basic elements, principles, processes, materials, and inherent artistic qualities of theatre, music, dance, and the visual arts. Focus is on experiential learning using a creative dramatics approach. The course is geared toward students planning to work with elementary-age children as teachers, caregivers, and others specializing in child development. This course is a requirement for all transfer students pursuing the AAT Elementary Education degree. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate an ability to interpret expressions and themes by exploring and comparing the basic elements, principles, processes, materials, and inherent qualities of the creative arts of dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts.
2. Demonstrate an application of knowledge and skills sufficient to create basic productions in the creative arts of dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts.
3. Identify the elements that are basic to each art form, as well as those common to more than one and those that are unique to a particular art.
4. Use evaluative criteria to help participate better with a work of art.
5. Develop a keener awareness of values, self, and society.
6. Identify the form employed by the artists and interpret the meaning revealed in some specific works of art.

Major Topics

I. Music

A. Elements

1. Rhythm
2. Melody
3. Harmony

B. Composition – Create and build a musical instrument, and perform an original composition

II. Dance

A. Elements

1. Body
2. Time

3. Space
4. Energy
5. Relationships

B. Composition – Create and manipulate a thematic motif using basic principles of dance composition

III. Theatre

A. Elements

1. Text (literature)
2. Image
3. Sound
4. Space

B. Composition – Thematic motif that involves the manipulation of text (literature), image, sound and space

IV. Visual Arts

A. Elements

1. Line and Shape
2. Texture and Color

B. Principles

1. Unity/Variety and Emphasis
2. Illusion of Space and Movement

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.

Music - Using an assigned theme, students create and perform a score, either individually or as part of a team, that demonstrates their knowledge and skill development. The score could be a prototype for the final semester project.

Dance - Using an assigned theme, divide into groups and create and perform a 1-minute study that demonstrates knowledge and skill development. The dance study could be a prototype for the final semester project.

Theatre - Using an assigned theme, students create and perform a script, either individually or as part of a 2-person team, that demonstrates their knowledge and skill development. The script could be a prototype for the final semester project.

Visual Arts - Using an assigned theme, students produce an item, either individually or as part of a 2-person team, that demonstrates their knowledge and skill development. The item could be a mask, a costume, scenery, a prop, etc., that might be a prototype for the final semester project.

Integrative Arts Performance Project and Reflective Essay - The final project is a group-created, **integrative arts performance** that incorporates materials built in the dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts units. The faculty will facilitate the creative process by posing questions, directing discussion, and suggesting alternatives. Final assessment will focus on *process* rather than artistic *skill* or *product*. You will self-evaluate how well your time was used and the depth of your involvement. Peer-ratings will reflect the quality and quantity of the individual contributions to the group project. The final exam is a **reflective essay**. Questions on the nature of your semester experience in the creative arts will be posed and you will respond in essay form.

Evaluative Responses - Attend one event each in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Respond to each in ways that demonstrate your understanding and appreciation of each creative art form. *Prior to mid-semester, you must submit one written essay and present one oral response.*

- **Oral/Creative Response** - Using an art medium other than the one you observed, share your response in ways *other than writing*. For example, a response to attending a theatrical play might find expression in a self-created drawing; showing a copy of famous painting; presenting a brief movement study; moving to self-made rhythmic sounds; playing a related song.
- **Written/Evaluative Response** - Minimum 500-word essay. Organize according to basic principles for viewing the visual and performing arts:
 1. Locate the strongest or most original quality of the performance or exhibit, e.g., one dance in the concert; one musical selection in the program; one act in the play; and one work in the art exhibit. Describe your choice using terms appropriate to the art form.

2. Describe, if, at all, your subjective response to the artistic work; e.g., how did the dramatic, poetic, and/or psychological elements affect your response?
3. If this were your artistic creation now, discuss how you would sharpen, change, or reform the work.
4. In what ways does this work integrate the four art forms or disciplines?

Other Course Information

This course is a Fine Arts and Humanities Core Course and an Arts and Science elective.