

GAR201 Introduction to the Arts

Saint Louis Christian College

Professor Kent Sanders

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2014

Course Prerequisites: None

Tuesdays & Thursdays

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Mission Statement

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

Course Description

Introduction to the Arts provides a faith-based perspective on the creative arts by examining art in the arenas of the Biblical narrative, Western culture, the local church, and our personal lives. The majority of the course focuses on four major areas of the arts: painting and visual art, architecture, music, and film. Students are exposed to a wide array of art in order to develop an appreciation, understanding and commitment to the arts as a fundamental expression of our faith and culture. Students will engage in writing, discussion, analysis, group work, and personal creative work during the course. There is no course prerequisite.

Course Rationale

In order for Christians to “impact the world for Christ,” we must understand and appreciate the various forms of art that have shaped (and been shaped by) our culture. However, it is not enough to simply “know about” art; rather, we must understand it from a biblical perspective. This course helps achieve that end by surveying the Bible and art, introducing various forms of Western art (including painting, architecture, music, and film), and discovering possibilities for art in the church.

Course Objectives

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

1. Articulate a Christian perspective of art and culture.
2. Identify basic terms and concepts related to major types of art.
3. Communicate effectively through a group presentation.
4. Review and analyze your personal interaction with art.
5. Evaluate the use of art in a local church.
6. Reflect on your calling and opportunities as a Christian leader in relation to the creative arts.
7. Create a work of art based on Scripture and personal experience.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation. You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions and learning experiences. Institutional “walks” do not count against your grade, but do count toward the 25% of class sessions you are allowed to miss without being academically withdrawn.

An attendance chart will be available each class session, and it is your responsibility to make sure you sign it. If you miss more than 15 minutes of class, you will be counted absent.

Assignments:

* Special note on assignments: This Fall, we are experimenting with the hybrid model of course delivery. All of your assignments, papers and exams will be submitted or taken via SLCC's online learning platform, Atheneo. You will be given more info about how to login and use this platform the first day of class. Please consult the Course Resources for additional information about each assignment, and the Course Schedule for due dates.

1. **Discussion Questions from *The Liberated Imagination* (15% of final grade).** Complete discussion questions based on the reading from *The Liberated Imagination* by Leland Ryken.
2. **Book Summary of *The Artisan Soul* (10% of final grade).** Complete a 2-page double-spaced book summary of *The Artisan Soul* by Erwin McManus. Summarize the main content of the book and identify specific ways the content applies to your life.
3. **St. Louis Art Museum Tour and Reflection Paper (15% of final grade; see course schedule for due date).** Spend at least 90 minutes in the museum and write a reflection paper about your experience. Please note that the museum is closed on Mondays.
4. **Exams (20% of final grade).** You will take an exam related to each of the four main types of art we will discuss in class (visual art, architecture, music, film).
5. **Group Presentation on a St. Louis Landmark (15% of final grade).** You will work with 2-3 other students and give a presentation on a St. Louis Landmark.
6. **Art and the Church Project (10% of final grade).** The ultimate goal of this course is to help equip you for leadership and service in the church and the world. To that end, please choose a local church and reflect upon its use of art.
7. **Creative Project (15% of final grade).** Engage in a creative project that centers on spiritual or biblical themes. A proposal is due before you submit the final project.

Course Policies

- All assignments should be submitted through Atheneo unless otherwise indicated.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period (12:00 p.m.). No late work accepted unless prior arrangements are made before the assignment is due. A request to submit late work must be sent in writing via email, and the Prof. must give you permission to submit the late work before you send it.
- In the instance of institutional walks, the student is responsible for submitting the work by the deadline.
- All written assignments submitted as documents are to be typed in 12-point font and follow MLA style. Assignments should include the student's name, course name and number, and mailbox number. Handwritten work will not be accepted.

- Plagiarism is unacceptable and unethical. If plagiarism is found in an assignment, the student will receive no credit for that assignment. Any student who allows his/her work to be copied by another student will receive no credit for the assignment.
- I reserve the right to modify due dates, assignments and lecture topics as long as it does not add to the students' total workload.
- If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see personnel in The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance your ability to learn. I cannot implement any special accommodations without authorization from The Hundred.

Classroom Policies

- You are expected to conduct yourself in a mature manner. You may be asked to leave class for reasons such as excessive talking to other students; inattention (e.g. doodling); sleeping; using cell phones; and demonstrating a lack of respect for the professor and fellow students.
- Please do not eat in class. Drinks are acceptable as long as they have a lid. I like Coke Zero (hint!).
- Computer should only be used for taking notes. Please do not text during class.

Course Textbooks

McManus, Erwin. *The Artisan Soul: Crafting Your Life Into a Work of Art*. HarperOne, 2014.

Ryken, Leland. *The Liberated Imagination: Thinking Christianly About the Arts*. Wipf & Stock, 2005.

Contact Information

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Available on campus daily. The professor's office is upstairs in Keystone Building in Rm. 200.

***** The Course Resources and Course Schedule will be available via Atheneo and SoldiersNet.**