

Art and Music in Western Civilization (formerly called *Introduction to Fine Arts*)

Instructor: Ernie Cervantes

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Texts:

Adams, Laurie. *Exploring the Humanities: Creativity and Culture in the West*. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

Bishop, Philip E. *A Beginner's Guide to the Humanities*, Second Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.

Machlis and Forney. *The Enjoyment of Music*. 10th Edition, Standard Version, 2007.

The instructor will regularly also give out supplementary readings and informational handouts. Attendance and class participation are very important. Students must be prepared to listen carefully in class, take notes and engage in discussions.

Needed Materials: A wire-bound notebook or three-ring binder.

Course Description: Art and Music in Western Civilization - 10 Units

This two-semester course covers the major periods in the development of Western Civilization. Important events, artistic movements, philosophies, geography, religion and social history will be examined through the artistic expressions of the societies in question.

Students will learn the basic elements of art and music, then study their major historical style periods. As much as possible, students will attend live theater, concerts, dance productions, and visit museums. Therefore, families should be aware that attendance at these events is an important part of the grade and will require a commitment of time beyond the Friday class sessions.

Special Note: A very small class size is anticipated this year. Consequently, it should be easy to set up field trip experiences in which all enrolled students can participate. The instructor expects to take more out-of-town trips than in previous years -- at least one per semester. Parents will be asked to join the class on these trips as often as possible to help supervise. Their presence will

also enhance the home schooling portion of the course work. Likewise, parents are always welcome to attend the regular Friday class with the students.

Assessment: Students will receive grades for some in-class assignments and activities. Most major test grades are from short research papers and take-home essays based on concert and museum attendance. Multiple choice, true/false and matching tests also may be given occasionally.

Grading: Letter grades will be computed using the school's adopted formula:

A = 93 – 100%	B+ = 87 – 89	C+ = 77 – 79	D+ = 67 – 69	F = Less than 60% of points possible
A- = 90 – 92	B- = 80 – 82	C- = 70 – 72	D- = 60 – 62	

Late Work: Late assignments will be accepted only if the student could not turn them in due to illness, approved school activity, or any other legitimate excused absence. You will have two weeks from the time of your return to complete any missing assignments. Late work will not be accepted from students without a valid excuse.

Class Schedule: The class meets on Fridays from 9:20 to [10:35](#). ~~The instructor will try to release the class promptly at 11:55. However, the instructor also reserves the right to hold the students later under certain circumstances. For example, if no students in the Friday class have a third period class, we may "go overtime" on a few occasions so that the class might view certain filmed performances in their entirety. Students will not be asked to stay late unless the students and parents are notified at least one week in advance of the date that the students will be held over.~~

Since students will attend live theater, concerts, dance productions, and museums, families should be aware that attendance at these events is an important part of the grade and will require a commitment of time beyond the Friday class sessions. Specific times and dates for some of these activities are listed on page 4 following. Others will be available to you as details are finalized.

Scope and Sequence:

The topics listed below will be covered throughout the course of the year. The instructor may not cover these topics in the exact order given. Sometimes we will have to change the sequence of our studies to accommodate the available concerts and museum exhibits.

1. Course Introduction
2. Elements of Art
3. Elements of Music
4. Style periods
5. The Art of Ancient Greece
6. The Art of Ancient Rome
7. The Spread of Christianity and its impact on art in Western (Medieval) Europe
8. The High Middle Ages
9. Music and Art of the Renaissance
10. Music and Art of the Baroque
11. Neoclassicism and the Enlightenment in Music, Art and Architecture.
12. Romanticism in Music, Art and Literature
13. The Industrial Revolution and its impact on Art in Western Europe
14. Impressionism
15. Early 20th Century Artistic Movements
16. Music and Art After WWII
17. Contemporary Art and Music

Minor changes will be made to the scope and sequence as concert, opera and museum exhibit opportunities make themselves available.

A special *caveat* for students of this course and their families:

In the past, some students of this course and their families have objected to some of the material covered in this class. This is a survey course that covers the major periods in the development of Western Civilization. Important events, artistic movements, philosophies, geography, religion and social history will be examined through the artistic expressions of the societies in question.

The instructor will try to enhance the aforementioned discussions by presenting and commenting upon masterpieces of western art. Of necessity, some of the paintings and sculptures in question deal with the nude figure (e.g. Myron's *Diskobolos*, the Belvedere *Apollo*, Michelangelo's *David*, Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)*). Nudity in art will be particularly prevalent in our study of the Classical and Renaissance style periods.

In addition, *verismo* opera may deal with violent themes such as murder, torture and political assassination. If the student or parents have objection to any of these themes or subjects, then the student is encouraged to drop the course now, before it becomes too late to add another course and the student is short of units.

Finally, parents should be assured that the instructor will only present images or footage of a truly educational nature. Anything of a mature nature is shown strictly for the understanding of the art and the time in which it was created. Gratuitous sex, violence and sensationalism are not parts of the planned curriculum. If you have questions about any materials that the instructor plans to show in the course, please contact him as soon as possible. If you still have reservations after that meeting, you are advised to drop the course.

One of the stated objectives of this course is to expose students to live performances and other cultural experiences. Listed below are some of the mandatory activities that are intended to play an important part of the class the fall semester:

Bakersfield Symphony: Subscription Concerts

Rabobank Arena Theater and Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Avenue
Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00 with student voucher.
The student must attend one of these following two performances in the Fall semester:

- Saturday, October 16, 2010
- Saturday, November 13, 2010

Nutcracker Ballet (abbreviated children's performance)

Rabobank Arena Theater and Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Avenue
Thursday, December 9, 2010; 10:30 a.m.
Ticket provided for students enrolled in the class.

The student must attend one of these following two performances in the Spring semester:

- Saturday, February 5, 2011
- Saturday, March 12, 2011
- Saturday, April 9, 2011
- Saturday, May 14, 2011

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD - Live opera broadcasts from New York via satellite are held at Edwards Cinemas at the Marketplace, 9000 Ming Avenue. Student must attend one performance in the spring semester. It is preferred that we all attend the same performance as a class. For this group outing, the instructor will select an opera that is accessible to neophytes. We will gain a class consensus before deciding upon a date for the opera. Performances begin at 10:00 a.m. on the dates listed below:

Spring Semester:

Adams's *Nixon in China* – New Production

February 12, 2011 at 10:00 am PT

Expected Running time: 4 hours

Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*

February 26, 2011 at 10:00 am PT

Expected Running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*

March 19, 2011 at 10:00 am PT

Expected Running time: 4 hours

Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* - New Production

April 9, 2011 at 10:00 am PT

Expected Running time: 3 hours

Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

April 30, 2011 at 10:00 am PT

Expected Running time: 3 hours

Visits to the Bakersfield Museum of Art (one each semester)

1930 "R" Street

Date TBA; 10:00 a.m.

Visit to the Getty Center, Los Angeles

Date and travel arrangements TBA

In addition to these events, we will try to attend museums in the Los Angeles area (e.g. the Getty Center, the Getty Villa, the L.A. County Museum of Art and the Norton Simon Museum). Dates and locations are to be determined by interest of current exhibits, feasibility of group travel, and class consensus on travel dates.

Remember that attendance for these events is mandatory, but students will be given ample notice to plan and clear their calendars. There will be major writing assignments associated with these activities. If there are any problems, see the instructor as soon as possible.