

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Fine Arts Survey

Martin Kohn

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

This class is designed to further your understanding of the Fine Arts. When we discuss the Fine Arts, we are speaking about music, visual art, drama (including theatre and film) and dance. My main field of expertise is music, but I am fairly well versed in visual art and drama. We will concentrate on those three areas and lightly touch on dance.

The Fine Arts are important because they are expressive. They allow us to feel things that are only possible through the exposure to the Arts. My goal is to expose you to a variety of Arts example from different cultures and times. We will discuss the social uses of the Arts as well as how the Arts function as a marker of time and culture. We will discuss superlative Fine Art achievement in the hopes that you will value them.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Describe Fine Arts from other cultures and world regions.
2. Describe virtuoso performers and identify what makes them the best.
3. Describe Fine Arts Criticism and the role of the Fine Arts Critic.
4. Describe how music is used in film and theater.
5. Identify musical instrument timbres.
6. Identify and describe musical form.
7. Describe classical music periods beginning with the Renaissance.
8. Describe jazz and its importance to our culture.

Required Class Materials:

Students are required to bring a pencil or pen to each class. Students are encouraged to maintain a folder or notebook in order to keep past papers and resources.

Text:

This class makes extensive use of audio and video examples in place of an established text. Students will be given handouts and will research topics using the school's computer lab.

Course Outline:

1. Fine Arts from other cultures and world regions.
2. Virtuoso performers and identify what makes them the best.
3. Fine Arts Criticism and the role of the Fine Arts Critic.
4. How music is used in film and theater.
5. Musical instrument timbres.
6. Musical form.
7. Classical music periods beginning with the Renaissance.
8. Jazz and its importance to our culture.

Please note that visual art will be correlated with the above outline topics whenever possible.

Major Assignments:

During the early part of the semester, students will be asked to construct a homemade percussion instrument.

Midway through the semester, students will be assigned to write four movie reviews.

Later in the semester, we will take a field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. Students will have a written assignment to complete while at the museum. Students not making the trip due to ineligibility or illness will have an internet research project to complete.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on your classroom work, your assignments and your quizzes. Most students who receive a poor grade in this class do so because they do not complete the assignments. Your large assignments will include constructing a percussion instrument and writing four reviews of films.

Class Policies & Procedures:

Make up work is at times difficult in this class because we rely on in class audio and video examples. Students are responsible to see the instructor upon their return to school to receive their make up assignment.

- A. Have your pen/pencil and writing surface at every class.
- B. Respect the learning rights of others.
 1. Be quiet when I am instructing or when a classmate is speaking.
 2. Have empathy for the likes and dislikes of others.
- C. Unless given prior permission, do not bring in outside materials.
- D. If it is not yours, don't touch it.
- E. All food, candy and beverages are not allowed in this room. Water in a clear bottle as per school rules is acceptable ALTHOUGH we do have the best tasting water in the building in this room.
- F. Sit in your assigned seat.

2. CONSEQUENCES:

If you choose to break a classroom rule, you will receive one or a combination of the following:

- A. Verbal Warning.
- B. Seat in class moved.
- C. Fifteen minute lunch period detention.
- D. Parent contact concerning your behavior choices.
- E. Written detention to the dean of students.
- F. Parent/teacher conference to discuss your behavior choices.
- G. Removal from the class.

Miscellaneous:

We discuss how the arts relate to societies and cultures. Because of this, we have frank discussions concerning how religious organizations and social beliefs have impacted and continue to affect the arts and our culture.

During our film music unit we view three movies. One of them is Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. Students under seventeen are required to bring in a parental note giving permission to view this film.

Instructor Contact:

Mr. Kohn may be contacted by email: martinkohn@cusd4.org or by phone (815)694-2321 ext. 2123. His free period is dependent upon his assigned schedule.