



St. Olaf College General Education Curriculum Artistic Studies (ALS-A) Requirement

Description:

A course intended to develop appreciation and understanding of artistic forms – their essential elements as well as their various functions in human life and culture.

Intended learning outcomes:

Students will demonstrate:

1. the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the formal properties of a primary work of art.
2. an understanding of the relationship between a work of art and its cultural context.

Course guidelines with Curriculum Committee comments:

1. Artistic forms include the visual and performing arts--visual art, film, music, theater, and dance.
2. Courses must help students achieve an informed appreciation of the aesthetic and formal properties of the art that is the subject of the course, and an understanding of the art within the broader context of human life and culture.

Comment: "Informed appreciation" may be achieved and expressed in a variety of ways, depending on the artistic form being studied. In making course proposals, faculty are encouraged to describe the most appropriate way, in their particular field, by which students can meet this section of the guidelines. The "broader context of human life and culture" refers to the contexts and circumstances in which artistic forms arise, and the ways in which they affect performer, viewer or audience. More generally, it refers to the role artistic forms play within human culture, and the distinctive experience or knowledge they offer. All courses, whether in performance, creation or criticism, must relate their subject-matter to aspects of this broader context.

3. Courses may develop appreciation and understanding through performance, creation or criticism:
 - a. Performance includes acting in plays, or performing musical compositions or choreographed dances.
 - b. Creation is the making of new works, in the studio arts, film, music, theater or dance.
 - c. Criticism is the analysis of artistic forms.
4. Fractional courses totaling one course may satisfy this requirement if:
 - a. All courses are in the same artistic form.
 - b. The combination of fractional courses as a whole satisfies the guidelines above.

Comment: It is the responsibility of departments, in consultation with faculty teaching the relevant courses, to design the combination of fractional courses that would meet the guidelines as a whole.

Information for instructors proposing ALS-A credit for a specific course:

The St. Olaf Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals to designate individual courses as meeting the Artistic Studies requirement. Instructors may seek ALS-A credit as part of a proposal for a new course, or may seek to add ALS-A credit to an existing course. ALS-A credit is attached to the *course*, not to the instructor or to the specific term in which the course is offered. A proposal for ALS-A credit must show how the course meets each of the ALS-A course guidelines; the comments following a guideline provide additional information about how the Curriculum Committee interprets and applies that guideline in reviewing proposals. Instructors are encouraged to consider the comments as well as the guidelines themselves in preparing proposals. Forms and additional instructions for submitting proposals electronically are available on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#).

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