

# ARTS

## Foundation Document Criteria for General Education Certification of

Approved by FGEC January 8, 2015

### REQUIREMENT PURPOSE

Revealed scripture invites us to seek after “anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy” (13<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith) and commits us to recognize and appreciate those things that “please the eye and gladden the heart.” (D&C 59:18) These commitments underlie the General Education Arts requirement at BYU, which ensures that each student develops “a lively appreciation of the artistic... achievements of human cultures.” (*Aims of a BYU Education*). The Arts requirement also helps students “acquire the basic tools needed to learn, including... the ability to engage successfully in... critical analysis... creative imagination, and independent thought” (*Aims*). Together, these lay the foundation for lifelong enjoyment of the arts in ways that lift the spirit and enlighten the mind.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through GE-approved Arts courses, students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the elements, forms, aesthetic and compositional principles of at least one form of artistic expression (e.g., visual arts, dance, music, theatre, or film).
- become acquainted with a variety of representative works in at least one art form.
- demonstrate analytical literacy in at least one art form, meaning the ability to invoke the vocabulary, grammar, and theoretical models of the art form for the purpose of “reading” a work of art.
- develop the ability to recognize multiple possible interpretations of an art work, and identify the work’s adherence to or departure from the genre’s traditions and conventions.
- *For theory-based Arts courses:* demonstrate the ability to engage in critical analysis of works of art, including an understanding of the historical and cultural factors that should inform an appreciation of such works.

- *For applied Arts courses:* develop increased creative imagination and independent thought by directly engaging with the art form as a performer or maker.

## COURSE CHARACTERISTICS

The Arts requirement is met through an approved Arts course. Although Arts courses may range along a continuum of varying degrees of practical and theoretical engagement, all courses must include:

- introduction to the elements, forms, and interpretations of at least one art form.
- engagement with an art or combination of arts through critical analysis. This can take place either via reproductions or recordings, live performances/original works, or through participation in the art form as a performer or maker.
- assessment of the students' theoretical and analytical engagement.