

**Tamalpais Union High School District
Larkspur, California**

Course of Study

**WORLD ARTS 1-2:
Performing and Visual Arts in Latin America**

1. INTRODUCTION

World Arts is a yearlong course focusing upon, but not limited to, the artistic traditions of Latin America. Students will actively participate in the performing and visual arts of several Latin American countries, including: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Students will utilize the major modes of artistic creation from these countries. Students will create works based upon trends in artistic creation which shaped products of Latin American artists. A major focus of the artistic output will be drawing, painting and ceramics with additional products in theater and the musical arts. Students will become familiar with the major artists in the music, theater, and visual arts of these Latin American countries. Students will investigate the effects of the major forces in each country upon the arts; these forces will include politics, religion, economics, and communities of mixed heritage. Students will create both folkloric and popular art and distinguish how the beliefs and aesthetics behind both forms shape the cultural traditions in a community or country.

Students enrolling in World Arts are expected to have completed an introductory fine arts course in which they developed a beginning understanding/skill in either the performing or visual arts.

Experience and knowledge of artistic trends, cultural influences, and informational resources will enable further pursuits in world arts through performance, presentation, travel, and active community participation.

Student projects will focus upon hands-on artistic creation and hands-on interpretation of traditional folk and popular art styles with a research background in the history, aesthetics, and cultural traditions of the work.

Students will be engaged with professional artists practicing Latin American artistic traditions in the surrounding community (Marin and the greater Bay Area). They will make continued use of these local experts to sustain their artistic growth.

The course provides students with opportunities to practice both group and individual project management skills which are applicable to future work experiences.

Completion of this course will prepare students for more advanced coursework at a college or university, and further creative expression in the ethnic arts.

This course addresses the following Tam 2000 goals:

1. Student Success. Prepare our students for lives of personal, academic, and professional growth, achievement, and fulfillment.

- Provide opportunities for, and encourage students to, demonstrate individual and collective responsibility, creativity, productivity, and initiative through class, school, and community projects and experiences.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful adult/student contacts for each student
- Provide opportunities for students to acquire the technological skills needed for personal, educational, and employment success.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to help students meet the following Student Learning Outcomes:

#11: Interpret, experience, and create and/or perform artistic work

#12: Demonstrate school-to-work/post-secondary transition skills and knowledge.

Students will:

1. Create two major works each semester in the artistic traditions of a given Latin American or other world country.
 - One work will be in the art history of specific cultures and will be performed publicly for the school and greater community.
 - One work will be in the visual arts and will be displayed publicly for the school and greater community.
2. Keep a multi-media portfolio of work which will include:
 - Audio Recordings of musical experiences
 - Videotaped travel experiences documenting cultural interaction and the arts of the country.
 - Projects in the visual arts which demonstrate refinement of their skill and understanding of cultural traditions
3. Maintain a journal or sketchbook in which they will record their artistic experiences and reflect upon their learning about Latin American traditions.
4. Advocate for and educate about diverse cultural traditions through the presentation of their work to the community.
5. Make connections with Bay Area cultivators of cultural arts with Latin American emphasis.. They will work in conjunction with these artists to create authentic works in the performing and visual arts.
6. Apply project management skills, combining many elements including artistic creation, planning, and task delegation.

III. ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed through a variety of means including

1. Criteria for all artistic work (including major semester works and portfolios) will be specified for each assignment and may include:
 - Demonstration of an understanding of the principles and elements behind creation within the given art form
 - Connection to the cultural background of a given country
 - Evidence of progress from previous work
 - Display of originality within the context of tradition
2. Completion of assignments within the allotted time.
3. Papers and electronic products which support the historical and cultural relevance of their artistic works.
4. Prompt and regular class attendance.
5. Participation in public presentations and performances.
6. Students will be given the course expectations and specific grading criteria at the beginning of the course, in writing.

B. Course Assessment

The effectiveness of this course will be assessed through a combination of student feedback, administrative observation, and specialist observation.

IV. METHODS AND MATERIALS

A. Methods

1. Students will apply concepts and traditions studied in a variety of group and individual hands-on projects and produce pieces of visual art.
2. Students will exercise their understanding of these concepts by publicly displaying their work to an audience composed of peers, school staff, parents, and the larger community.
3. Guest artists will guide students toward authentic artistic creations with multicultural traditions, and hold informal discussions.
4. Field trips to professional facilities which deal with world arts, such as recording studios, local theaters, management companies, and museums.
5. Students will listen to a variety of musical recordings, watch video tape of theater productions and musical events, and observe pieces of art from a variety of cultures. Students will use these works as models and distinguish specific elements unique to artists and traditions from a given country.
6. Students will use written text to enhance their understanding of artists' concepts, history of artistic trends, and theoretical approaches in world visual and performing arts.

B. Materials

1. Students may use a variety of musical instruments, such as drums, mallet instruments, strummed string instruments, and their own voices.

2. Students may use a variety of art materials, such as pen and ink, pencils, pastels, papers, paints, and ceramics..
3. Pre-recorded compact discs, tape recordings, and records of world music.
4. Video tapes of theatrical productions and concerts from diverse cultures.
5. Books and slides of art from multicultural artists.
6. Selected readings from journals, periodicals, and newspapers.

C. Technology

1. Students will use graphic design software to create art or edit pieces in the tradition of world artists.
2. Students will use video filming and editing equipment to film dramatic presentations.
3. Students will use the Internet as a mode of communication with artists in the greater world community. They will engage in an exchange of artistic ideas across world lines.
4. Students will design web sites to display their artistic production.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

This is a year-long, 10 credit, elective course open to students in grades, 11 - 12, which may be repeated for credit a second year if taught within the Global Studies Academy.

When World Arts is taught as part of the Global Studies Academy, the course will be offered as a two-year course, with students earning 10 credits each year. The content will be arranged so that the first year will be focused upon the artistic traditions from Central and South American. The second year may include studies of the same geographic area as well as other countries. A major part of both years will be spent focusing upon the travel destination selected by the Global Studies Academy. Students will create works in the performing and visual arts during both years. Work will be kept in a portfolio so that, at the end of the two-year cycle, students will have a major artistic repertoire.

A. Prerequisites

Completion of an introductory Fine Arts course such as Art Explorations, Beginning Drama, or Beginning Band. At Drake High School, this course is offered as part of the Global Studies Academy and, thus, a prerequisite is enrollment in that academy.

B. Requirements Met

Credits earned may be used to fulfill the district's Fine Arts graduation requirement or elective requirement. This course currently does not meet any specific college entrance requirements. It meets the UC "g" elective credit.

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