Course Description

This course presents art as a means of personal development, encouraging students to appreciate not only art, but also the capacities and self-knowledge art can stimulate. We will explore art by experiencing it, sharing it, discussing it, and writing about it. Artworks will represent various levels and periods (e.g. fine art, popular art, contemporary art, past art) and forms (e.g. photography, music, dance, writing, sculpture, painting, theatre). How can exploring art show you who you are? Artistic engagement will help you understand your experiences and goals, in education, relationships, spirituality, career, and society, preparing you to flourish.

Course Objectives

This course, like every Capstone, focuses on students’ personal development.

- Students review their BC education.
- Students preview the process of making upcoming, long-term commitments in four key areas: relationships, career, spirituality, and society/citizenship.

Field Trips

In addition to our weekly meetings, we will go on two class field trips this semester, one to see the contemporary play *The Wolves* (Finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize) and one to visit the Museum of Fine Arts.

- *The Wolves* | Lyric Stage Company (Sunday, January 27 at 3 p.m.)
- Museum of Fine Arts (Sunday, March 31 at 1 p.m.)

The cost for the play will be approximately $20. Admission to the Museum of Fine Arts, with your BC ID, is free. Both field trips are required.
Required Texts

The following course texts are available at the BC Bookstore (except for the two movies, which are on iTunes).


All other course texts, listed below in the Course Schedule, will be accessible on our Canvas site.

Grading

**Participation: 25%**

Participation includes your attendance (to class and conferences), your preparedness (for class and conferences), your contributions to all class activities and discussions, and your completion of four less formal writing assignments.

**Papers: 75%**

Three papers, each worth 25% of your grade, will be assigned this semester. Each paper will give you the opportunity to explore art as a means of self-discovery as you consider the topics of creativity (Paper #1), the experience of being wrong (Paper #2), and the arts (Paper #3). Details for each paper will be provided.

Course Policies

**Academic Integrity**: Students must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see Boston College’s policy on academic integrity for more information.

**Accommodation and Accessibility**: Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in courses. Advance notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that
coordinate services for students with disabilities: The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD, and The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities. Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. If you miss class and your absence is not excused, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. For excused absences, make-up work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Lateness, if repeated, may be counted as an unexcused absence. If circumstances necessitate excessive late arrivals to or absences from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Excessive unexcused absences during the semester will result in a failing participation grade (in the case of 3 or more such absences) or in a failing grade for the course (in the case of 4 or more such absences).

**Class Discussion:** To participate in class discussion, please raise your hand. This simple rule will help make our discussions more inclusive and, as a result, richer.

**Deadlines:** Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due by the beginning of class. Late assignments will not receive full credit.

**Technology:** Cell phones are not appropriate in our classroom setting and should not be out, at all, during class. Similarly, using a tablet or laptop during class for any nonacademic purpose is also inappropriate.

**Written Work:** For their papers, students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in MLA format. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using MLA style. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically, and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

**Course Schedule**

**WEEK 1**

**January 17:** Student Formation

- In class: Excerpts from “A Pocket Guide to Jesuit Education” and “The Journey into Adulthood: Understanding Student Formation” from BC University Mission and Ministry
WEEK 2

January 24: Your BC Education
• Writing due: Assignment

January 27: Field Trip to The Wolves at the Lyric Stage Company (3 p.m.)
• Cost: Approximately $20
• Address: 140 Clarendon St, Boston, MA 02116

WEEK 3

January 31: Student Development in College
• Reading due: The Wolves | Excerpts from Student Development in College

February 6-7: Conferences
• Sign up for a time in advance

WEEK 4

February 7: Creativity
• Reading due: “Tales of Creativity and Play” from TED.com | Excerpts from Universal Principles of Design | Excerpt from Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art
• Writing due: Assignment

WEEK 5

February 14: Representation
• Reading due: Excerpts from Aesthetics | “St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves” from St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves | “Texas” from The New Yorker

WEEK 6

February 21: Spirituality
• Reading due: Tattoos on the Heart pg. xi – 82 | “The Limitations of Being Spiritual But Not Religious” from C21 Resources
WEEK 7

February 28: Creativity

• Writing due: Paper #1

March 7: Spring Vacation

• NO CLASS

March 13-14: Conferences

• Sign up for a time in advance

WEEK 8

March 14: Society

• Reading due: “On Being Wrong” from TED.com | Tattoos on the Heart pg. 83 – 145
• Writing due: Assignment

WEEK 9

March 21: Form

• Reading due: Excerpts from Aesthetics | Excerpts from Universal Principles of Design | Blindspotting

WEEK 10

March 28: Career

• Reading due: Tattoos on the Heart pg. 147 – 212 | “Activities of Daily Living” from The Sun

March 31: Field Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts (1 p.m.)

• Cost: Free
• Address: 465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115
WEEK 11

April 4: Expression | Relationships

- Reading due: Excerpts from Aesthetics | Eighth Grade | Excerpts from Encyclopedia of Human Relationships
- Writing due: Assignment

WEEK 12

April 11: Being Wrong

- Writing due: Paper #2

April 16-17: Conferences

- Sign up for a time in advance

April 18: Easter Weekend

- NO CLASS

WEEK 13

April 25: The Arts

- Writing due: Paper #3

May 1-2: Conferences

- Sign up for a time in advance

WEEK 14

May 2: Transitions

- Reading due: Excerpt from Student Development in College