

FINE ARTS  
2006-07 "ONE QUESTION" STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT ANSWER

LEARNING GOAL/OUTCOME

Further diversity & understanding of one's own and other cultures: Basic

QUESTION

In an age of intense media saturation and a growing entertainment industry, how can student's cultural perspectives be diversified and underscored with critical and intellectual poise?

EXPECTED ANSWER (HYPOTHESIS) AND ANTICIPATED USE OF RESULTS

The student body of the Fine Arts program presents little ethnic and cultural diversity. The program is likely to need greater instruction in the cultural diversity of the arts to help prepare students for the globalization of our planet. Hopefully there is already a good deal of cultural diversity within the various courses presented in our program. The information gleaned from this project will lead to a discussion by the faculty concerning greater cultural diversity in the instruction of the various studio courses.

PLAN (METHODS)

The faculty members will be asked how they have included elements of cultural diversity in their studio courses. The College Art Associations cultural diversity committee will be approached as an advising committee in this project.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Due to the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Art Department's faculty, there is already a highly diverse cultural instruction in place within our department. Based on interviews with the various faculty, nearly all studio classes present material concerning the Fine Arts outside the traditions of the Western World. Also all Fine Arts majors must take an Art History course concerning the Arts of South Asia or of East Asia. Other available courses focus on Islamic Art, Women Artists and non-Western Art History. The study of non-Western Art History in the program has been incredibly enhanced by the full-time hire of an Asian and Islamic Art specialist two years ago. When reviewing the number of students that have studied abroad in the last 4 years, the number has increased each year. The experience of global study amongst our students is essential to the cultural awareness in the program. Recent study abroad students have shared their experiences with their peers through blogs. This sharing of personal travels has stirred other students to study abroad.

The results are better than expected. What this means is that we may now reflect upon cultural diversity beyond a basic level to more advanced levels. How may cultural diversity be enhanced beyond a handful of courses? How can we inject greater ethnic and cultural diversity within the student body itself particularly when grants and scholarships have decreased?

HOW THESE RESULTS WILL BE USED

The exhibition committee that oversees the College Galleries exhibition calendar and visiting artists lecture series has decided to make cultural diversity a primary focus of the 2007-08 school year. An exhibition titled 'Assumed Identities' will take place in fall 07 and a lecture series revolving around identity issues will be scheduled through the year. We feel that this programming will strongly enhance next school year and may lend perspective on the needs for the following years. The exhibit will explore assumptions and assumed roles and feature work by artists who develop personae, alter egos or characters (actual or imagined), explore

misconceptions regarding identity (i.e., racial profiling), or take on the tasks and responsibilities of other individuals or professions as part of their art making process and/or content.

**Assumed Identities** October 31-December 3, 2007

#### REFLECTION

Last year the question was that of understanding problem-solving methodology. The results of that question involved greater expedition by students into Art institutions throughout NJ, NYC and Philadelphia. These expeditions to other institutions worked well in developing greater cultural perspectives in the student body. Both last year and this year's results will continue to pave the way toward a more competitive program based on a student body that is hungry to learn and to develop diverse perspectives.

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