



Davao del Sur State College
Brgy. Matti, Digos City, Davao del Sur

GEC 606 ARTS APPRECIATION



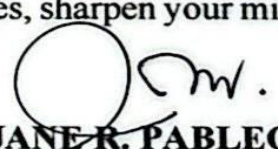
PREFACE

This coursepack in Arts Appreciation is designed to guide college students through one of the most enriching journeys in the humanities — the thoughtful, critical, and deeply personal engagement with art. Whether you are approaching this subject for the first time or returning with renewed curiosity, these modules are crafted to build your understanding steadily and meaningfully, layer by layer.

Art is not a distant or elite pursuit. It is, as you will discover in these pages, a fundamental expression of what it means to be human. From the earliest cave paintings drawn by our ancestors to the contemporary murals gracing the walls of Filipino cities, art has always served as our most powerful means of communication, commemoration, and connection. This series of four modules is structured to take you from foundational concepts to increasingly complex and critical terrain. You will begin by examining what art is — its assumptions, its nature, its functions, and its meanings. You will then move into the technical vocabulary of visual art, learning to identify the elements and principles that give shape and form to every painting, sculpture, and building you encounter. From there, you will expand your perspective outward to art history, tracing the long sweep of artistic traditions from prehistoric cave walls to contemporary Filipino canvases. Finally, you will explore some of the most pressing and contested questions surrounding art today: the rights of indigenous communities to protect their cultural heritage, the nature of creative genius, the ethics of artistic appropriation, and the legal dimensions of intellectual property.

As you work through each lesson, bring your own experience, cultural background, and aesthetic sensibilities to the conversation. *Art does not demand agreement — it invites dialogue.* The best art appreciation is not passive reception but active, reflective engagement. The questions these modules raise: What is art? What does it do? Who does it belong to? What does it mean? — do not have a single correct answer. They are questions worth living with.

It is the sincere hope of this course that by the time you reach the final lesson, you will carry with you not only a vocabulary for talking about art, but a genuine, lasting appreciation for its power to illuminate the human condition. May these modules open your eyes, sharpen your mind, and enrich your spirit.


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GEC 606 ARTS APPRECIATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	i
Preface	ii
Table of Contents	iii

MODULE 1 Meaning, Nature, and Content of Art

Overview Introduction, Objectives, and Outcomes of Module 1	1
Lesson 1 Assumptions and Nature of Art	2
Lesson 2 Functions and Philosophy of Art	6
Lesson 3 Subject and Content of Art	12
Module Summary	18
Module Assessment	19
References	20

MODULE 2 Foundations of Visual Art: Medium, Elements, and Methods

Overview Introduction, Objectives, and Outcomes of Module 2	21
Lesson 1 Medium and Technique in Visual Arts	22
Lesson 2 Elements and Principles of Art	32
Lesson 3 Methods of Art Production in Visual Arts	40
Module Summary	48
Module Assessment	49
References	51

MODULE 3 Art Through Time and Performance: A Global Perspective

Overview Introduction, Objectives, and Outcomes of Module 3	53
Lesson 1 Art History: Western Art	54
Lesson 2 Art History: Asian and Philippine Art	63
Lesson 3 Performance Arts: Music, Theater, Film	73
Module Summary	81
Module Assessment	82
References	83

MODULE 4 Indigenous Arts, Creative Genius, and Artistic Rights

Overview Introduction, Objectives, and Outcomes of Module 4	84
Lesson 1 Indigenous Arts: Weaving and Textile Art	85
Lesson 2 Soul Making Art: Framework for Genius and Appropriation	92
Lesson 3 Issues on Copyright, Ownership, and Improvisation	98
Module Assessment	104
References	108

