DANCE 001: BEGINNING JAZZ

Spring 2013, Dance 1, Section 1,2 T/Th 1:30 – 2:45pm, Solano Hall, 1010

Instructor: Ms. Lisa Ross
Dept. of Theatre & Dance; Shasta Hall, Rm. 261
Email: LRoss@csus.edu; Message: 278-7714
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs. 12:00 – 1:00pm
https://sites.google.com/site/dancingpixieproduction

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course examines the theories and practices of beginning jazz techniques.

Jazz dance; a broad term for American social and stage dance employing jazz or jazz-influenced music. It originated in black social dances of the 19th century and has since been incorporated into minstrel shows, vaudeville, revues, musical theatre, and theatrical dance shows, film and television. Through its evolvement, it has drawn from ballet, modern dance, tap dance, and social dance forms. It emphasizes bodyline and flexible torso; fast, accurate footwork; and exaggerated movements of individual body parts. Jazz dance is ever-changing and reflects cultural and political movements of the times. Students will begin to study different styles of jazz movement including beginning jazz techniques, lyrical and blues-stylistic movements, and hip-hop/street/funk styles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The goals of this class are for the students:

- To enhance one’s knowledge of jazz dance through a study of classical jazz dance traditions
- To develop an understanding of jazz dance traditions in the United States
- To develop an appreciation of jazz dance as an art form that can be enjoyed throughout an entire lifetime as a spectator or participant.
- Demonstrate beginning level jazz dance Centre techniques and combinations of steps across the floor.
- Demonstrate specific jazz combinations to precise rhythmic patterns.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theory and vocabulary of jazz dance.
- Develop a sense of discipline of thought by concentrating and practicing challenging movement patterns.
- Develop general body conditioning through flexibility, strength, coordination, exercises and techniques.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Practical Exam Testing (120 points)
   - 3 Combinations; evaluating the dancer’s technical ability, performance quality, knowledge of choreography, and group creativity of specified combinations
2. Written component
   - Vocabulary Test; written test on terminology and definitions (10 points)
   - Film Observation Summary; written summary of dance film (10 points)
   * refer to website for specific questions
   Choices are: Singing in the Rain, West Side Story, All That Jazz, A Chorus Line, Beat Street, Stomp the Yard
   - 3 dance show question/answer observations - 3/3’s (60 points)
3. **Participation**

- In class performance/attitude is based on the dancer’s ability relative to an absolute standard of excellence. This standard is reflected by class attendance, ability to assimilate corrections, individual growth, and willingness to take risks. It is a privilege to be in a dance class, let alone have the body that allows you to dance. Lack of motivation or improper etiquette is cause for the student to lose points. Required attire is listed below. The inability to have the appropriate attire will result in the student being asked to sit out with a loss of five points from their grade that day for lack of participation. There are two free absences allowed during the semester. Thereafter, each additional absence constitutes the loss of 10 points.

- Classes start and end on time. If you arrive more than 10 minutes after class has begun, you will not be able to participate, but you may observe. You must turn in a thoughtful written summary at the end of class if you do observe, failure to do so will result in a loss of points.

3 TARDIES OR EARLY DEPARTURES EQUALS 1 ABSENCE.

**Through the practical exam testing, written component, and participation the student has the potential to accumulate the total of 200 points**

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*Please feel free to make an appointment with the professor at any time during the semester for any questions or concerns you may have regarding this course and its requirements.

**Required Attire:**

Jazz oxford shoes, black or white leotard or form fitting dance apparel of your choice for women, white or black t-shirts for men, black stretch bottoms (workout or dance attire), no street attire. Warm-ups may be worn for the first 15 minutes of class. Hair should be pulled back and secured. No obtrusive jewelry.

**Important Dates to Remember**

- Feb. 4-6 – Auditions for *Cabaret*, University Theatre
- Feb. 13 – Auditions for *Senior Dance Concert* @ 6:30 pm, Solano 1010
- Mar. 25/27 – CAMPUS CLOSED – Spring Break
- Apr. 1 – CAMPUS CLOSED
- Apr. 15 – vocabulary test and combination #2 test (lyrical/contemporary) 40 points
- May 15 – combination #3 test (Hip/Hop) 40 points
- May 21 – All paper work due to my office by 5pm
- May 21 @ 5:30pm – Choreography showcase (extra credit)

**Class Etiquette**

1. Respect each other, the instructor, and the studio we create, grow, and dance in.
2. Eating and gum chewing are prohibited in dance classes.
3. Cell phones must be turned to silent. No texting allowed.
4. Students may bring their own water bottle. No other food or drink prohibited.
5. Talking in class is unacceptable except in instances when the instructor requests student discussion.
6. If you need to leave the studio for any reason, get permission from the instructor.