DANCE 111: ADVANCED JAZZ

Spring 2012, Dance 111, Section 1,2           MW 1:30 – 2:45pm, Solano Hall,1010

Instructor: Ms. Lisa Ross
Dept. of Theatre & Dance, Shasta Hall, Rm. 261
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Office hours: Tues/Thurs 12:00 – 1:00pm
https://sites.google.com/site/dancingpixieproduction

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course examines the advanced level of theory and practice of modern jazz techniques including
movement vocabulary with an emphasis on the self-development of each student.

The primary emphasis of this course is to strengthen jazz dance technique. The level assumes that
students enter the course with a solid foundation in classical technique (ballet influence on jazz
dance) and jazz vocabulary (“steps”). Students will continue to practice and perfect their technique.
Special attention will be placed on leg articulation and strength, turns, leaps, and rhythm/sequencing.
Through combination skills tests, students will be tested on both the physical mastery of jazz
technique and vocabulary. In addition, students will go more deeply into jazz dance styles and
pedagogy through class observations and lecture. Attending and writing about live dance will
complement the students’ experience in dance as an art form and professional field.

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

• To analyze elements and DETAILS of classical technique pertinent to jazz dance.
• To strengthen and apply jazz vocabulary at an advanced level.
• To develop and demonstrate a greater overall physical strength.
• To strengthen and break down the nuances of musicality, rhythm and sequencing skills.
• To identify and improve performance skills in dance, including musicality, strength,
  confidence, etc.
• To improve and evaluate performance styles.
• To interpret and expand on the overall understanding of jazz dance history and styles.
• To improve observation and writing skills through the critique of movement.
• To improve the understanding of dance pedagogy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Practical Exam Testing
- 2 Combinations; evaluating the dancer’s performance quality, knowledge of choreography, and
technical skill level of specified combinations (80 points)
- Final examination; evaluating the dancer’s performance quality, knowledge of choreography, and
  group creativity of a group-choreographed concert jazz performance (40 points)

2. Written component
- Group and self-evaluation, discussion of class videos of specified combinations (20 points)
- 3 dance show critiques; written evaluations of dance concerts (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**

### Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>200-186 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>185-180</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>179-174</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>173-166</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>165-160</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>159-154</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>133-126</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 119</td>
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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**

- Jan. 30 – Class placement exam
- Feb. 4-6 – Auditions for *Cabaret*, University Theatre
- Feb. 13 – Auditions for *Senior Dance Concert* @ 6:30 pm, Solano 1010
- Mar. 11 – Practical Test #1
- Mar. 18 – self-evaluation due
- Mar. 25/27 – CAMPUS CLOSED – Spring Break
- Apr. 1 – CAMPUS CLOSED
- May 8 – Practical Test #2
- May 15 – self-evaluation due
- May 21 – All paper work due to my office by 5pm
- **May 21 (5:30 – 7:00) Final - Practical Test #3 – Group Choreography (40 points)**

**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.