DNCE 131: DANCE CULTURES IN AMERICA

Professor Kerry Mehling
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Spring 2013, 3 Units, Section 3: Mon & Wed: 4:30-5:45PM SHS 240

TEXTS:
1. DNCE131 Reader from Simply Brilliant Press on Howe Ave
2. Additional Handouts will be provided by instructor as needed

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
A survey course in the appreciation, understanding, and practice of American dance forms, with an emphasis on the relationship of dance to the identity and expression of different cultural groups in the United States. Cultural dance forms, jazz, modern, ballet and social dance, from a multicultural perspective, will be the focus of the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course explores American dance forms, and how dance reflects and impacts the American body from personal, familial, economic, social and political perspectives. A survey of dance forms, styles and practices will be explored via reading, video, discussion and practice. This course will help students to challenge their perceptions of dance, to develop critical and analytical skills in ‘reading’ dance and understanding the rich role that dance has played in the development of American culture. In addition to lectures, research presentations and viewing of live dance performances, this course also includes the frequent use of films, videos and group discussions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Understand and comprehend the influence of dance on American culture.
2. Understand and analyze the influence of American culture on the evolution of dance.
3. Recognize and identify various dance traditions, which exist in American culture, past and present.
4. Apply and develop critical and analytical abilities that will help students appreciate dance in various cultures in America and abroad.

No electronic devices are allowed during class activities (cell phones, ipods, etc.).

1. CLASS DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION 100 points
20 of the 100 points are based on the student’s class attendance, ability to assimilate information, level of motivation in group discussions and projects, and by class discussion participation. On many of our class days we will be engaging in “dance breaks”. These will be small tastes of social, folk and vernacular dances that pertain to the subject that we’re currently studying. I’ll keep them light to moderate in physical activity. Because everyone learns in different ways, and some may have injuries, disabilities and other challenges with class participation, please speak with me to let me know if you need adaptations or special considerations for any physical activities.

2. EXAMS (2) Mid Term and Final 75 points each=150 points
There will be two (2) exams from lectures, readings, discussions and videos. Exams are multiple choice and will be given during class.
If you need special accommodations to be arranged for our test days, please notify me at least one week prior to said test, if not within the first week of class so proper paperwork can be presented and preparations can be made.
3. DANCE CONCERT ATTENDANCE/CRITIQUE: 25 points each=50 points
Attend two (2) approved concert and submit a critique within one week of attending said performance. Guidelines will be provided. This course emphasizes the experience of live dance performance. A list of upcoming performances will also be provided. Link to upcoming performances on the CSUS campus: http://www.csus.edu/dram/season.html

4. VIDEO VIEWING AND WITTEN RESPONSE (10) 10 points each=100 points
In class there will be a discussion after the viewing of a video. Written analysis will be due one week after viewing of said video. Guidelines will be provided and discussed. It may be necessary for us to continue our discussion on a particular video and I will announce in class if we will be doing so.

5. Group Presentations (2) 50 points each=100 points
The class period before both your Mid Term and Final you will have group presentations. Your group will choose a previously discussed subject or a subject otherwise approved. Your presentation will involve oral as well as physical elements and may involve the use of music, video, etc. Dates for these projects may change or be extended if needed.

ABSENCE POLICY: A student is permitted two absences before the grade is penalized. Each subsequent absence will result in a 10 point deduction from your grade. Every three (3) tardies or early departures will be equal to one absence. You are responsible for knowing any of the material relayed when you miss class. It is helpful to have a buddy or two that you can go to for any missed announcements, assignments.

Attitude: Students must display sincere commitment, focused concentration and openness to new material. This includes participating in class exercises, discussions and assignments with a positive and pro-active attitude. Disrespect towards the teacher or other students will not be tolerated. Participation with a positive attitude involves not only showing up, but also contributing to the best possible results for everyone in the class, taking part in discussions, and doing each assignment to the best of your ability. This is a learning community and everyone’s actions affect the whole.

Extra Credit: Up to (2) extra credit projects at ten (10) points each, for the making up of missed days are permissible. Watching a live dance performances or taking of an approved dance classes are high on the list of acceptable extra credit. Please see me for approval of all extra credit activities. NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF CLASS.

ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND GRADING
1. CLASS DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION 100 points
2. MID TERM & FINAL EXAMS (2) 75 points each=150 points
3. DANCE CONCERT ATTENDANCE/CRITIQUE: 25 points each=50 point
4. VIDEO VIEWING AND WITTEN RESPONSE (10) 10 points each=100 points
5. Group Presentations (2) 50 points each=100 points total

Grande Total: 500 points


The requirements on this syllabus are subject to change based on the progress of the class.

*The dropping of any course MUST be done by the STUDENT, following appropriate steps. The instructor cannot drop a student from a course.

*If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.
CALENDAR & READINGS FOR DNCE 131: FALL 2013

Readings may change due to the path the class takes. Check your CSUS email regularly for any changes and announcements. It is your responsibility to keep updated on the class assignments and activities.

WEEK 1:

WEEK 2:

WEEK 3: Wed. Feb 13th, 6:30p SLN 1010-Senior Dance Concert Auditions! Go watch or take! 533-549. New York, NY: Oxford University Press,

WEEK 4:
ALVIN AILEY RESIDENCY FEB. 21-23 and 29, 30 concert at the Mondavi Sacramento/Black Art of Dance FEB 28-MAR 10 Solano 1010 Dancespace

WEEK 5: Handouts for the Shakers and early American Theater will be provided.

WEEK 6:

WEEK 7:
Additional articles will be provided

WEEK 8:

WEEK 9: March 25-April 1 SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10:
Additional handouts will be provided

WEEK 11: Dance politics. Handouts will be provided.

WEEK 12:

WEEK 13:

WEEKS 14 and 15: Spill over and workdays for development of final presentations.

WEEK 16: Final presentations.

THERE ARE NO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WILL WARRANT THE ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Always feel free to speak to me about any issues that come up in class. I’m here to help you meet your goals and attain your fullest potential in class.