DNCE 002 : BEGINNING MODERN DANCE

Spring 2013, 2 Units        MW, 9:00am-10:15am        Solano 1010 (Dance Space)
Instructor Tiffany Braniff        Office Hours- By Appointment
Office-SHS 260        Phone- 916-207-8431        tiffanybraniff@gmail.com

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to the history and techniques of the modern dance tradition. Students will study basic modern dance principles and aesthetics, and learn modern movement to develop and improve strength, flexibility, balance, coordination and creative expression.

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” ~Martha Graham

The tradition of contemporary dance lies in constant innovation. Originally a rebellion to the classical structure of ballet, “modern dance” captured the innovative dance styles of numerous individuals as they developed personal movement languages, choreographic approaches, and dance training systems. Students in this course will explore contemporary dance technique with an eclectic approach.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
THE GOALS OF THIS CLASS ARE FOR THE STUDENT:

• Understand and apply the basics of modern dance technique: basic center work and traveling steps.
• Analyze and demonstrate basic modern dance vocabulary: stationary and loco motor movements.
• Understand and apply greater overall physical awareness: move with body initiation, punctuated and sustained movement, and clear sequential skills.
• Evaluate and demonstrate performance skills in dance, including musicality, strength, confidence, and creativity, etc: perform combinations in front of class with energy, physical commitment, and appropriate styles.
• Understand basics of modern dance history and styles.
• Apply an awareness of dance as a whole and to gain a wider perspective on dance performance.
• Apply observation and writing skills.

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES
This course will involve demonstration, exploration, replication and repetition of movement material with instructor and peer feedback, and self-evaluation as well as discussion and group work. Tools used-
Active student participation, Instructor (and/or teaching assistant) demonstration, Group assignment, Student choreography, Instructor feedback to student, Lecture, Video, Written analysis (of both live and video performance), Quizzes, Class discussion

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

COURSE EXPECTATIONS/ REQUIREMENTS/CONTENT
1. Attend all class meetings, participate and be present.
2. Treat instructor, yourself and fellow classmates with respect to maintain a positive and productive environment.
   Disrespectful behavior includes: Cell phone usage, Text messaging, Computer use, Talking while another individual is speaking, Sleeping, Eating, Arriving late or leaving early.
3. Be prepared for all course work on due dates. Missing an assignment due date is not acceptable (and will lower grade if accepted by instructor.)
4. Active class participation In class performance/attitude (80 pts.) 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.
5. Group mid-term project (20 pts.) -Minimum 2 min. collaborative original movement study, performed by the group. Further guidelines will be given. In-class time will be provided -groups determined by instructor
6. Mid-term written vocabulary and concepts test (10 pts.)
7. Mid-term (#1- 10 pts.) and Final (#2- 10 pts.) Practical Exams will consist of set in-class warm-up/phrase work/combinations performed in small groups.
8. **Handwritten Video Response Papers (Total-10 pts.)**-Sample Video - “PBS Dancing Series-The Individual and Tradition,” (Twyla Tharp on Modern Dance

9. **Typed Concert Reflection/Attendance papers (3 @ 20 each= 60 pts.)** Due 1 week after performance.

**Etiquette for Dance Classes.**
Treat instructor, yourself and fellow classmates with **respect** to maintain a positive and productive environment. Disrespectful behavior includes-Cell phone usage, Text messaging, Computer use, Talking while another individual is speaking, Sleeping, Eating, Arriving late or leaving early and excessive chattiness. Any of these may be cause for early dismissal from class at the discretion of the professor. Upon repetition of disrespectful behavior, it will be suggested that you drop the course.

- Do not chew gum.
- Turn off or Silence cell phones.
- Bring bottled water, and drink as you need. Adequate hydration is key to good health and good dancing.
- Ask questions when you have them and remember you learn as much from *listening*, *watching*, and *doing*, as you do from asking questions.
- Maintain a healthy, positive attitude and respect the classroom and learning processes.
- Let the instructor know if you need to leave the studio for any reason.

**Required Attire/Dress Code:** Student will do an observation of class if dressed inappropriately

- Bare feet, black leotard or fitted T-shirt of your choice for women, white or black T-shirts for men, black stretch bottoms (workout or dance attire), no street attire. Warm-ups-sweat shirts, etc., may be worn for the first 15 minutes of class. No visible “logos” on black tops or bottoms.
- Hair pulled back and secured.
- No obtrusive jewelry.

**Attendance Policy**
- For a 2-unit dance class, **not more than 2 absences** are allowed. A deduction of **15 points** will start with the third absence and for each thereafter. Absolutely **no make-ups** will be allowed. Each student is responsible for keeping track of his/her absences. After **7 absences student will receive an automatic Fail!**
- 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.

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DANCE STUDIO SPACES**
Our SLN 1010 and Shasta 132 dance studios are our second home; Treat these spaces with care and respect for optimal creating, learning and exploring. ABSOLUTELY NO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SPACE. Space must be reserved through Lorelei Bayne, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, Dept. Office and Campus Facilities.

NO food/drink, except water, and please CLEAN UP any trash left behind. DO NOT touch scrim in SLN 1010. Remove shoes before walking in studio. SLN 1010 Theatre Seats –NO EATING or DRINKING anything other than water. Dressing Room in SLN 1010 only used for faculty and performances. Clear space and turn off sound system when leaving for next class/rehearsal-this includes props and furniture. Lock and secure space if necessary.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class performance/attitude</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Response Papers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) Concert Responses (3 Questions/3 Observations)</td>
<td>60 (20 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Exam Combination #1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Exam Combination #2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Vocabulary and Concepts Test</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid –term Collaboration Project</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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186-200 A 180-185 A- 174-179 B+ 166-173 B 160-165 B-
154-159 C+ 146-153 C 140-145 C- 134-139 D+ 126-133 D
120-125 D- 0-119 F

***Student Tutorial on how not to plagiarize:*** [http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353). There is a **ZERO TOLERANCE** Policy for Plagiarism. ***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. The dropping of any course MUST be done by STUDENT; please follow appropriate steps.
COURSE OUTLINE/CONTENT:
(FLEXIBLE DEPENDING ON CLASS NEEDS)

Week 1

Week 2
Introduction to Basic Technique and Modern Vocabulary. Begin learning body part initiation; Concentration on body alignment, strength, flexibility, and coordination. Begin Learning Combination #1.

Week 3
Build integration of sequential skills (learn how separate dance steps go together). Prepare for Skills/Vocabulary Assessments

Week 4
Continue work on Combination #1. Continue Building Technique/Vocabulary, Work with rhythm, pulse and dynamics.
Alvin Ailey Legacy Dance Residency Feb. 21-23!!

Week 5
Preparation continues for Practical Exam Combination #1. Demonstration/acquisition of basic technique, knowledge of sequence, and basic rhythm
S/BAD opens Feb. 28!

Week 6
Video and Lecture on Modern Dance History/styles; Expand on Modern Technique. Begin working in groups for Collaborative Mid-term projects.
ACDFA Fundraiser! Mar 4 and 5, Extra Credit!

Week 7
Technique; Incorporate More Extensive Exercises; Continue Mid-term collaboration and Showing of Project.

Week 8
Combination #2. Technique; Prepare for Mid-term collaboration/Vocabulary Assessments
March 25-29 and April 1- SPRING BREAK

Week 9
Vocabulary quiz. Demonstrate expanded technique.

Week 10
Experiential Anatomy & Core Strength Training. Dancer as athlete; how do we take care of ourselves?
UNITE at the Crocker-April 11 and Cabaret opens on April 10!

Week 11
Video and Lecture on Modern Dance History/Styles, Continue Combination #2.

Week 12
Technique; Continue Combination #2. Demonstrate more physical strength and continue developing timing (rhythm and phrasing) skills.

Week 13
Technique; Complete Learning of Combination #2

Week 14
Continue Combo #2, Vocabulary,

Senior Dance Concert opens May 9!

Week 15
Student Evaluation Practical test on Combo #2, Demonstrate strong rhythmic skills and enhanced performance ability

Week 16
Finals Week- Class performs TBA-Spring 2013-Choreography Showcase- May 21, Solano 1010, 5:30-7p