

DCE 101-03 Course Syllabus

Catalog Description: Introduction to the basic concepts and principles of modern/postmodern dance through readings, video, studio experiences, discussions, written work and concert attendance.

Course: DCE 101-03 Introduction to Dance

Credits: 3:3

Prerequisites: None

For Whom Planned: General university students seeking a studio experience course in dance that fulfills General Education Core (GEC) requirements in the Fine Arts.

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Office Hours: By Appointment

This class meets in **HHP 322** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45.

Come to Class WITH:

- Appropriate dancewear for this course. All students must dress out in clothing fit for movement. No jeans.
- Paper and pen or pencil for taking notes and completing in class assignments.
- A positive and supportive attitude. As a member of this class you are part of a community.
- Your cell phone turned off. Out of respect for the learning environment cell phones will not be tolerated.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the aesthetic sensibilities inherent in modern dance, based on the notion that modern dance embodies a way of moving, thinking, feeling, and being in the world that is unique to this art form. Specific artists and schools of thought will be introduced and compared to demonstrate that there is a wide range of aesthetic points of view within the modern dance community, but that there are also basic principles that are foundational.

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of modern dance technique through studio experiences, readings and discussion.
2. Students will develop a basic understanding of dance improvisational ideas through studio experiences, readings, and discussion.
3. Students will develop a basic understanding of the elements of dance composition through studio problems, readings, video presentations, live concerts, and discussion.
4. Students will develop a basic understanding of the dance rehearsal process and performance through the process of learning and performing a section of a dance.
5. Students will develop the ability to describe, in writing and discussions, certain aims and methods of artistic and intellectual expression in dance through their experiences in technique, improvisation, composition, and performance.
6. Students will develop the ability to demonstrate, in writing, an understanding of dance as an expression of culture in the twentieth/twenty-first century.
7. Students will develop the ability to demonstrate, in writing and discussion, an understanding of and sensitivity toward both Western European and African -American influences on the development of modern dance in America.
8. Students will develop the ability to demonstrate, in studio practice and discussion, the importance of dance as expression of self-understanding.

Teaching Strategies:

1. Students will be given direct studio experiences in dance technique, improvisation, composition and performance that will be directed by the instructor.
2. Students will reflect in writing and practical movement experiences on their readings, experiences and research on this art form.
3. Students will observe live modern dance events and view performance videos of European and African-American choreographers and will write reflectively to describe, analyze and interpret the dance performances they observe.

Grading Scale:

97-100 = A+	73-76 = C
93-96 = A	70-72 = C-
90-92 = A-	67-69 = D+
87-89 = B+	63-66 = D
83-86 = B	60-62 = D-
80-82 = B-	59 = F
77-79 = C+	

Course Outline: (See Course Calendar in Blackboard for specific dates)

The course will focus on four basic aspects of dance:

Improvisation: Various approaches to improvisation will be taught to place the students in close interaction so they learn to work together and have the opportunity to know one another fairly well. Improvisation will also introduce principles of self-expression, body awareness, dynamic range of movement, range of movement qualities and energies, exploration of elements such as weight, flow and time in movement. Students will also be introduced to methods for movement invention based in improvisation that may be applied later in the creation of dances.

Movement/Technique: Technique will be taught to enhance the student's understanding of specified movement through space and to develop a basic understanding of some foundations and traditions in contemporary dance. Our approach to technique will aim to increase coordination, range of movement qualities, strength and musicality. Ideas about how to take a class, sensitivity to injury and the importance of the proprioceptive nervous system will remain consistent throughout the technique sections of class. Students will be asked to write about and discuss their experiences to develop their descriptive skills.

Repertory: During this segment students will rehearse and perform a short section of a modern dance piece by a contemporary choreographer. Through this experience, students will learn not only about the dance but also about rehearsal process and performance.

Composition, Movement Invention, and Abstraction: This segment will allow students to work collaboratively and individually to develop, structure, abstract and design movement ideas for performance.

Academic Integrity:

ALL STUDENTS will abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy for this class. (All out of class assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise directed by the instructor) IF YOU HAVE NOT READ the Academic Integrity Policy it can be found online at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/>. This is your responsibility and you will be held accountable for any violation of this policy.

Drop Policy: Students who withdraw from this course without academic penalty must do so by the University withdrawal deadline, with the exception of students who must withdraw late due to injury or illness.

Attendance:

The Dance Department REQUIRES an 80% participation rate to get credit for the course. You will be permitted **TWO absences ONLY** without penalty. 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade for each absence incurred beyond these two absences. NOTE: **Three tardies counts as one absence**. A tardy constitutes being late to class **OR** leaving early by ten minutes or more. **Upon the sixth absence**, students will be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments and Grading:**1. Reflections & Responses (Discussion Board): 2 points possible per response, 10 posts total, combined accounts for 20% of final grade**

Students will be prompted to write reflections on in-class experiences, *Creative Habit* exercises (posted on Blackboard), and assigned readings (posted on Blackboard). Prompts will be posted by instructor on Thursdays before 3:30PM, and responses will be due by **the following Thursday at 9AM**. There will not be a prompt assigned for every week. Specific dates of R & R posts will be announced on course calendar.

2. Three Movement-based Projects: Improvisation & Movement Invention, Choreography, Repertory : 20 points each, 3 projects total, combined accounts for 60% of your final grade

There will be 3 movement-based projects allowing students to demonstrate and deepen their understanding of the course material. Students will be given class time to work on projects and will also be expected to work outside of class. Specific guidelines for these projects will be discussed in class and posted under "Assignments" on Blackboard.

3. Concert Reflections: 10 points each and together account for 20% of your final grade

You will be required to see **two** dance concerts during the semester. **PLAN AHEAD.**

Concert Calendar:

Tickets sold at the UNCG Box Office (in the EUC) Bring your student ID.

9/26 SAT at 8PM | Alumni Homecoming Dance Concert (\$12 general admission; \$9 seniors and children; \$6 students)

An evening of dance work by UNCG Department of Dance alumni E. Gwynn Co., Liz Carlson, Tracie Foster Chan, Tamara Begley, Erin Brown Craven, and Madeleine Reber.

10/1-2 THURS-FRI at 8PM, SAT 10/3 at 2PM & 8PM | Cyrus Art Production (\$15 general admission; \$12 seniors and children; \$9 students)

Original choreography by UNCG Department of Dance faculty member Duane Cyrus.

10/24 FRI at 8 pm Martha Graham Dance Company Aycock Auditorium**10/30-31 FRI-SAT at 8PM | Dances from 1920s Paris: Two Works by Cocteau (\$12 general admission; \$9 seniors and children; \$6 students)**

Two works will be performed, which were originally by French poet, novelist, dramatist, designer, boxing manager, playwright, artist, and filmmaker, Jean Cocteau.

11/6-7 FRI-SAT at 8PM | North Carolina Dance Festival (\$15 general admission; \$12 seniors and children; \$9 students) Held in Aycock Auditorium

The Festival is an annual showcase of North Carolina dance artists that travels to five communities. Eight different companies will tour, performing alongside artists local to the host communities, making the actual concerts a mix of local and statewide artists.

11/19-21 THURS-SAT at 8PM | John Gamble Dance Theater (\$15 general admission; \$12 seniors and children; \$9 students)

Original choreography by UNCG Department of Dance faculty member John Gamble.

12/4 FRI at 8PM & SAT, 12/5 at 2PM & 8PM | Departmental Concert (\$12 general admission; \$9 seniors and children; \$6 students)

Dance works by faculty and students of the Department of Dance.

Concert options will also be posted on Blackboard and the UNCG Dance Department performance calendar is available online at www.uncg.edu/dce/calendar.html. You will write response to each concert (no less than 3 pages). There will be specific guidelines and writing prompts under "Assignments" on Blackboard for these papers. I **will not** accept papers electronically - all papers must be turned in as a hard copy. Due dates will be specified on your course calendar.

FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME: THURSDAY 12/10, 3:30-6:30. THE FINAL EXAM TIME IS MANDATORY. NO EXCEPTIONS.