

University of North Carolina—Greensboro
SPRING 2009 DCE 111C 01
Beg Contemporary #11375
T/H 11:00am—12:15pm HHP 322

Instructor: Duane Cyrus
Office: 220D
Phone: 256 1486
E-mail: dacyrus@uncg.edu

Office Hours My schedule changes often, so please check my office door for availability. To make an appointment or if you ever have questions or concerns feel free to use e-mail or phone contact listed above. So that I might be better able to address your concerns, please specify the reason for your appointment.

Prerequisite Pr. departmental permission; enrollment priority given to dance majors. May be repeated for credit.

Catalog Description Introduction to the movement techniques of contemporary dance, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities.

Topical Outline Students will work on realizing, maintaining, and, most importantly, transitioning through shapes. Various tools including video, video feedback, and selected readings will be used. Students will be expected to work individually, with partners, and in groups. Exploration of the technique and movement style of Martha Graham will compliment contemporary approaches to movement and performance with the goal of further understanding of individual expressive abilities for each student.

Warm-up exercises and combinations will develop over the course of the semester in length, speed (faster as well as slower), and in rhythmic and qualitative complexity to support the development of the Student Learning Goals (listed below).

Student Learning Goals To the degree appropriate for the beginning level of modern dance training, students in this course will learn to:

1. Move contra-laterally during locomotion (left/right body halves in opposition).
2. Grasp and retain sequences of simple exercises and combinations.
3. Breathe appropriately and as needed while moving.
4. Anticipate the beat when required.
5. Maintain energy/endurance throughout each combination and a full class.
6. Demonstrate commitment/responsibility as appropriate in and out of class.
7. Demonstrate awareness and attention to studio/classroom procedures.
8. Demonstrate dynamic alignment-as appropriate to exercises/combinations in the class and involving awareness of center.
9. Move on the beat when required.
10. Show appropriate use of the legs as called for in an exercise/combination.
11. Show appropriate use of the feet as called for in an exercise/combination.
12. Show command of skills involving initiation of movement.
13. Show command of skills involving weight shift.
14. Avoid extraneous tension in performing simple movements such as walks, skips, etc.
15. Fulfill the time/counts given for each part of the movement.

16. Demonstrate attributes of/qualities in movement as specified.
17. Demonstrate clarity of body line in simple movement combinations.
18. Demonstrate clarity of spatial direction in simple movement combinations.
19. Perform set movement with confidence/full engagement.
20. Respond spontaneously and imaginatively to improvisational prompts, with confidence/full engagement, and some degree of invention-and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within a given technique

Learning goals 1-20 mark distinct areas of skill in dance technique. Excellence in dance artistry is a matter of developing a high degree of skill in each area and integrating these skills during the performance of movement..

Teaching Strategies To enable student achievement of the learning goals, I will:

- Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement exercises and combinations designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of learning goals
- Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals, and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals
- Provide a written assessment on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet of your achievement at mid-term and again near the end of the semester;
- Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts;
- Provide opportunities for you to assess your own and others' progress toward the actual achievement of the learning goals;

* not every student will receive individual feedback during each class, but all students will receive individual feedback regularly throughout the course of the semester.

Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Assignments The fundamental and ongoing assignments in this class are to:

- Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components;
- Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that I provide in class;
- Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice;
- Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so;
- Reflect in writing as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the learning goals;
- Observe other dancers and assess their performance as assigned.

I will assist your learning experience, assess your progress toward the course outline and evaluate your actual achievement of the above learning goals through:

- Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class;

- Written mid-term and final evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback sheet.
- Oral feedback through discussion of your written assignments.
- Availability for individual and/or group conferences
- Exams conducted throughout the semester (**including during final exams week**) Schedule TBA

Your achievement in mastering the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course, and as documented on the **Dance Technique Feedback Sheet**, will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade. Your attendance record and your record in turning in any written assignments will be additional factors in calculating your final letter grade. Your letter grade will be determined as follows:

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

Your grade will be calculated using the following formula:

- 1) TECHNIQUE FEEDBACK SHEET is **90%** of your grade
- 2) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS contribute **10%** for completion of all written assignments
- 3) ATTENDANCE--1/3 letter grade subtracted for every unexcused absence beyond the allowance for this course. (See *Absences and Grades* below for allowed absences and policy for make up class.

Absences and Grades You are allowed **two absences**. For each unexcused absence over the number allowed, the final grade will drop 1/3 of a letter (for example, from an A- to a B+). You are allowed **one** make up lesson (only required if you have three or more unexcused absences.) **All make ups MUST be completed before the last day of classes.** When injured or ill (but not contagious), students may still be counted as present and participating if they attend class and move to the degree the infirmity allows. Remember, if you are too sick or injured to take class then notify your instructor, stay home and please consider seeing a physician. Remember to make choices that are healthy for you. Any extended (more than one class) injury or illness requires a doctor's or official note with anticipated date of return in order to be listed as excused.

Participation The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate (students must dance in 24 out of the 30 meetings in classes that meet twice a week, and in 36 out of the 45 meetings in classes that meet three times a week) to get credit for the course. **Sitting, watching, or taking notes does not count as participation unless you attempt limited movement and remain engaged in the lesson. Please do not submit observation notes if watching class.**

If you provide an official note for absence or non participation please make sure it lists the dates of your absence or limited participation, otherwise you will be allowed only **one** unexcused non-participation per semester. **Two unexcused non-participation**

days equal one absence and students who do not meet the 80% participation requirement for any reason will need to repeat the course.

If you arrive after the opening exercise has started please wait until the instructor recognizes you before joining the class. If you are late repeatedly you may be asked to sit out, in which case you will be marked as non-participatory.

After the first week of class you will be marked non-participatory and asked to sit out if you do not follow the dress code listed below.

Requirements

- Notebook with paper and space to store documents. You should bring it to every class.
- Dress Code—Black and/or white leotard and tights or unitard. Additional warm-ups should also be black or white
- Do not wear baggy clothing that hides or distorts the “lines” and shapes you will make in this class
- Attendance and **active** participation
- Demonstrated commitment to reaching the **Student Learning Goals**
- Adherence to the fundamental and ongoing assignments listed in the **Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Assignments**
- Adherence to the **Academic Honor Code** (See Student Handbook)
- Be prepared to work intelligently and to your full potential in each class
- **Do not leave the studio for any reason without notifying the instructor first**
- Be respectful of others (fellow students, instructors)
- No food, candy, or gum in the studio
- **Sign document indicating your understanding of and commitment to the guidelines and requirements of the syllabus**

Suggestions

- Long sleeves are recommended for floor work
- Extra clothing is permitted to keep warm. However, please remember that allowing the instructor to properly assess the accuracy of alignment and shape is part of **Student Learning Goals #8, 10, and 17**—Be prepared to remove outer layers once you are properly warmed up
- Prepare your “dance bag” with kneepads, soft soled shoes (soft jazz shoes), bandages, tape and antiseptic, towel, and a notebook to write down ideas and corrections
- Eliminate preconceptions and enter into the learning process with an open mind.
- Know that nothing you do is “wrong” as long as you apply yourself and maintain a spirit of intelligent inquiry
- Enjoy the gift of dance!