

DCE 111-02: Beginning Contemporary Dance
TR 12:30-1:45
HHP 322

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Office Hours: By appointment
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Catalogue Description: Development of technical skills in contemporary dance, including proper alignment, rhythmic perception and spatial awareness, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities that lead to performance.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

On completion of this course, you will learn to:

1. Move contra-laterally during locomotion (left/right 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 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 bodyline 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 to improvisational prompts, with confidence/full engagement and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within a given technique.

I will assess your progress toward accomplishing the learning goals by giving:

1. Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class.
2. A midterm and final evaluation using the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

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

1. Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement exercises and combinations designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of the learning goals mentioned above.
2. Present movement vocabulary with clarity.
3. Observe your daily work in class and make recommendations for continued development.*
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts. This will occur concerning individual technical growth using the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet at mid-term and again near the end of the semester. Students may make additional appointments if they feel the desire to do so.**
5. Video class, allowing opportunities for you to observe yourself and others from a different perspective.

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

** Dance Technique Feedback Sheet: DTFS's are tools for assessment of and communication with the students. As a template, this allows me to focus in on what students can/should center more of their attention on while furthering their efforts in the class as a whole. The DTFS and supplemental material can be found on the UNCG Dance Department Website: <http://www.uncg.edu/dce/syllabi.html>. Supplemental materials (ie. Definition of skills, alignment statement, etc) can also be found there.

EVALUATION METHODS

To succeed in this class, you will need to:

1. Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components.
2. Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that I provide in class.
3. Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice.
4. Execute the movement material as accurately as possible and with full body/mental engagement.
5. Contribute to the learning environment by creating/leading a combination in class and performing a short work demonstrating skills learned throughout the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is expected in every class. There are only **two** allowed absences for the entire semester, **regardless of the reason**, before your grade is affected.

The relationship between attendance and your final letter grade is as follows: 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each absence incurred over the two maximum absences allowed for this class. (ie: If your grade is a "B" at the end of the semester, but you have a total of 4 absences, your final grade will be a "C+").

A tardy arrival or early departure over 10 minutes will equate to 1/2 absence. Accruing two of these will equal one absence. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you are required to sit-out and take notes for safety reasons, forcing you to use your one allowed observation day. If you are less than 10 minutes late, please quietly join the back of the class and begin working immediately, with as little distraction as possible. If you are tardy (within 10 minutes of the start of class) two times or less, your grade is not affected; however, timely class arrival is critical to your safe participation, technical development, and professionalism. **You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy.**

The Dance Department requires 80% participation in order to receive a passing grade in technique classes. Observation does not count towards this 80%. Students must physically participate in 22 classes in order to pass this course; not participating in 6 or more classes = no credit.

Students may make up **ONLY 1** class in another instructor's contemporary class of the same level if permission is received from that instructor. I must receive a signed paper from the other instructor (you get it signed and bring it to me) indicating your participation in her/his class in order to receive make-up credit. See me before beginning this process. **Do not wait until the end of the semester to take your make-up class.**

Observations: In the case of temporary injury or non-contagious illness, students are expected to observe class. **ONLY ONE OBSERVATION DAY IS ALLOWED.** Your role as an observer is both teacher and student. Observing class provides an opportunity to develop your eye as a dancer/teacher. You should take detailed notes that make correlations between what you see, what you hear, and what you personally experience when you are physically participating in the class. How does observing class further enrich your kinesthetic and cognitive understanding of contemporary dance? These notes should be legible and **handed in at the end of class.**

Situations such as serious illness, long-term injury, or family emergencies may be dealt with on an individual basis. In some cases, students will be given an "incomplete" to be made up within the next semester. In other cases, I may recommend that you withdraw from the course.

CLASS CONDUCT

Please be respectful of your fellow classmates, the instructor, and our art by being attentive and following studio etiquette at all times during class (if there are any questions as to the components of studio etiquette, please see me privately). I encourage you to ask relevant questions during class, but will not tolerate excessive chatting, socializing, or other distracting behavior. Class time needs to be reserved for refining and improving our craft and our bodies as artistic instruments. For your own safety and enjoyment of this class, no eating or gum chewing is allowed in the studio. Please turn off or silence all cellular phones and other electronic devices. Should there be a reason you need to have your cell phone out during class, please let me know before we begin.

CLASS ATTIRE

Clothing that limits the visibility of movement is not beneficial for you, as a learner, or for me, as your teacher. Each student should come prepared with clothing that fits closely and doesn't distract from observing clean body lines. At the same time, you should be comfortable in what you are wearing so that you are not inhibited. Avoid short shorts, pants that cover your ankles and baggy T-shirts. Long hair must be pulled back.

GRADING SYSTEM AND SCALE

Your grasp of the technique, class conduct and your abilities to successfully engage yourself consistently in class will inform the bulk of your grade. This will be assessed through the use of the DTFS (80% of grade) in addition to your contributions to the class assignments (20% of your grade). Once calculated, your attendance will factor in according to the system described above.

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

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, Dec 9th: 3:30 – 6:30pm.

If you have **ANY** questions about the syllabus don't hesitate to ask me at any time during the semester. I look forward to dancing with you!