

University of North Carolina - Greensboro
Spring 2009 DCE 112E-01
Advanced Beginning Contemporary Dance
T/R 8:00-9:15 HHP 322

Instructor: Ali Duffy

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Office Hours: By appointment. Please e-mail me to set up an appointment.

Catalogue Description: Development of technical skills in contemporary dance, including rhythmic perception and spatial awareness, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities that lead to performance

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

1. Demonstrate dynamic alignment. (see UNCG Dance Website for more information)
 2. Prompt grasp of class exercises and combinations.
 3. Refined sense of the body in relation to itself and to the space.
 4. Refined sense of initiation and articulation of movement
 5. Demonstrate rhythmic accuracy and qualitative understanding of musical nuances by moving on the beat and anticipating it when required.
 6. Deep exploration of the qualitative aspects of movement sequences, without extraneous tension.
 7. Dynamic phrasing of movement sequences to enhance the variations within movement phrases.
 8. Projection of energy while dancing, performing with confidence/full engagement
 9. Exploration of the range and depth of motion in space and through space, going beyond one's comfort zone.
 10. Performance creativity through spontaneous solutions to improvisational prompts and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within a given technique
 11. Commitment, engagement, and responsibility to course assignments and activities (movement based, written, or as defined by instructor)
 12. Demonstrate development of professional skills, independent work practices within the class, and responsible preparation before and after class.
- Learning goals 1-10 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.
Learning goals 11 and 12 describe efforts/attitudes necessary for progress toward excellence in dance and indicate specific behaviors that demonstrate them.

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 1-10
- Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals 1-12, and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals 1-12
- Provide a written assessment on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet of your achievement at mid-term;
- 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

PLEASE NOTE: 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:

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. Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so
5. Reflect in writing as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the learning goals
6. Observe other dancers and assess their performance as assigned.

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
 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

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 maximum absences allowed for this class. See absences and grades policy below.

Absences and Grades

In classes meeting two days a week, ONLY TWO ABSENCES are allowed FOR ANY REASON. In classes meeting three days a week, three absences are allowed. For each absence over the number allowed, the final grade will drop 1/3 of a letter (for example, from an A- to a B+, or from a B to a B-). ONLY ONE missed class may be made up by special arrangement (only required for three or more absences). When injured or ill (but not contagious), students may still be counted as present if they attend class and participate to the degree that the injury/infirmity allows. All students must meet participation requirements to pass this class. See below for the participation requirements. If you arrive late, please wait for the instructor to recognize you before joining the class. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late or are repeatedly late, you will be asked to sit out. A tardy arrival or early departure over 10 minutes will equate to 1/2 absence. Accruing two of these will equal one absence.

Make up Class

I will allow you to make up one absence by participating in another class of the same technique genre and level. You will need to arrange permission to attend the class with the instructor, and have him or her sign a piece of paper confirming your participation in the class.

Participation

The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate (students must dance in 22 out of the 28 meetings in classes that meet twice a week to get credit for the course. Sitting and watching a class does not count as participation. Students who do not meet the participation requirement for any reason will need to repeat the course. If you need to observe a class for any reason you must turn in a legible reflection paper at the end of class. It must include more than the sequence of combinations (I know the combinations because I made them up in the first place).

***The exam time for this class is Tuesday, May 12th 8:00-11:00 am. This time will be used for conferences as needed.

Topical Outline

Warm-up exercises will remain fairly consistent throughout the semester. Combinations and across the floor work will vary in length, speed, and in rhythmic and qualitative complexity with focus on both the details of the work and the overall performance.

Academic Honor Code

Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty; trust; fairness; respect; and responsibility. Supporting and affirming these values is essential to promoting and maintaining a high level of academic integrity. Each member of the academic community must stand accountable for his or her actions. As a result, a community develops in which students learn the responsibilities of citizenship and how to contribute honorably to their professions. If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. Members of the UNCG community are expected to foster in their own work the spirit of academic honesty and not to tolerate its abuse by others. First responsibility for academic integrity lies with individual students and faculty members of this community. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all other students, faculty and, ultimately, the university.

Class Requirements/Conduct:

Please be respectful of your fellow classmates, instructor, and our art by being attentive and following studio etiquette at all times during class. Some of the expectations I have of you as mature students:

- Appropriate dance attire – I need to be able to see your body shapes and lines. (No baggy shirts and no pants that come below the ankle.
- No socks or shoes; we will be dancing barefoot.
- Long hair pulled back out of the face
- No jewelry.
- Bring a water bottle to class.
- Bring your own band-aids, tape, scissors and antibiotic cream (and I suggest antibacterial spray or gel).
- I encourage you to ask relevant questions during class, but will not tolerate excessive chatting, socializing, or other distracting behavior.
- No eating or gum chewing is allowed in the studio.
- Please turn off or silence all cellular phones and other electronic devices.
- Please do not sit while class is going on (unless you are injured or are asked to do so). This is your time to move and become stronger dancers.