

DCE 112-01 – Advanced Beginning Contemporary Dance Technique
Fall 2009
M/W 8-9:15 HHP 322

INSTRUCTOR: Anne Morris
OFFICE: 220G
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
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CREDITS: 1 **PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES:** DCE 111

Catalog 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.

Important Dates

Midterm conferences: announced in class

Last day to drop without academic penalty: October 16

Final Exam: Friday, December 11, 8-11am. We WILL be meeting during this time.

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 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 (see attached alignment statement) 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.

Learning goal 6, 7, 19 and 20 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:

1. Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement exercises and combinations designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of learning goals 1-20;
2. Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals 1-20, and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals 1-20;
3. Provide a written assessment on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet of your achievement at mid-term and again near the end of the semester;
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts;
5. Provide opportunities for you to assess your own and others progress toward the actual achievement of the learning goals;
6. 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.

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.

I will assess your progress toward and your actual achievement of the learning goals by:

1. Giving daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class;
2. Written mid-term and final evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback sheet;
3. Oral and/or written feedback of the accuracies and inaccuracies I perceive in your written self-assessments.

*Please check the UNCG Dance Department Website (www.uncg.edu/dce) under Syllabi to view the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet, definitions of skills, and the statement about alignment.

Grading

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 will be an additional factor in calculating your final letter grade.

In calculating the achievement component of the final grade, your mastery of the learning goals will be assessed to produce a final score that is aligned with grades 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

Attendance Policy

You are allowed TWO absences (**excused or unexcused**), after which your grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade (for example an A becomes an A- etc.) Each additional absence will lower your grade by another 1/3.

Students are expected to be on time, dressed and ready for class, and to stay for the duration of the class. Two late arrivals or early departures will equal one absence. Entering the studio five minutes after class has begun constitutes a late arrival. Students who arrive 10 minutes after class has begun should sit out and watch. You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy.

When injured or ill, but not contagious, you may sit, watch a class, and record observations to hand in at the end of the class period and still be counted present. **ONLY TWO OBSERVATION DAYS ARE ALLOWED. Each observation over the allotted one will equal an absence.** Speak with the instructor first for guidance in your observation and note taking.

The dance department requires an 80% participation rate in technique classes meeting twice per week in order to receive credit. 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.

Serious illnesses and injuries will be handled on an individual basis. In such cases, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in order to make appropriate arrangements.

****If you have more than two absences during a semester, you may make up ONE absence by attending another 112 section. You must receive permission from the instructor of the other class before attending and bring back a note signed by that instructor confirming your attendance in their class. If you choose to make up a class, you must do so within **two weeks** of the absence. Your option for making up a class is:**

112-02 Duane Cyrus, T/Th 8-9:15am

Additional Requirements

You will need to be prepared for class, each and every day. This means:

Appropriate 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. I suggest clothes in which you can move freely and easily and that will allow you to participate fully in all movement material, such as pants, tights, or leggings that come below the

knee, so that your knees will be protected in our floor work. No jeans, skirts, short shorts, hats, chunky jewelry or extra-baggy clothing. You are expected to dance barefoot. Please pull back long hair.

Appropriate etiquette: Be on time, ready to dance. Turn off your cell phone. Do not bring gum or food into the studio. It is a good idea to bring a water bottle.

Appropriate behavior: Be aware of your peers during class; respect the needs and safety of all by maintaining your spacing when dancing within groups, and by staying out of the way when you are not dancing. When it is not your turn to dance, respect the others by remaining QUIETLY attentive. Ask questions when you have them. You learn as much from listening, watching and asking as from doing.