

## DCE 212-01: Intermediate Contemporary Dance

MW 5:00-6:15pm, HHP 322

**Instructor:** Justin (Justy) Tornow

**Office:** 220G, by appointment

**Email:** jctornow@uncg.edu

### Quick tips on being successful in this class...

#### \* *Show up to learn:*

- Attendance is crucial in studio technique classes, BUT your body in the space is not enough—being fully present and engaged in the class is necessary for growth and improvement. The effective study of dance requires a personal, willing commitment from each participant.
- Keep an open mind toward the material presented in class—it may sometimes fall outside of your comfort zone or realm of experience. Embrace that and choose the path towards a broader exposure to different styles and techniques in dance.

#### \* *Always do your best:*

Participate fully at all times. Take responsibility for your own learning—YOU are the main source of your growth and success in the studio. In order to achieve the goals of this course, you must be consistently engaged in the classroom activities and dedicated to your own improvement as a dancer. But remember, don't be too hard on yourself; the actual *process* of learning is more important in this class than trying to attain perfection.

#### \* *Follow proper studio 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, but plastic only-- no glass containers of any kind!

#### \* *Show respect to the learning environment:*

Be an active part of the classroom. Respect the needs and safety of yourself and your peers by being aware of the space you're occupying at all times, deferring to the needs of the class, and keeping a positive attitude.

Follow the agreed-upon class etiquette and conduct policies determined in the first week of class. Recognize that you learn from listening, watching and asking as well as from doing, so be attentive to the teacher and to your fellow classmates. And be curious!

#### \* *Wear the appropriate attire:*

No jeans, skirts, hats, chunky jewelry, extra-baggy clothing, or skimpy outfits.

**It is wise to wear shin length pants and form-fitting top layers. A long-sleeved shirt is especially helpful to have at the start of each class—sticking to the floor is never fun.**

You are expected to dance barefoot.

Please pull back hair from your face and off of your neck and secure.

### Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Progress

The fundamental and ongoing expectations for all students in this class are:

1. Keep a positive, focused attitude towards your work in class. Being *present* is crucial.
2. Fully attend to the movement material presented, as well as to the explanations and analyses of its specific components;
3. Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that are provided in class (to the group AND to individuals);
4. Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice;
5. When executing movement, work towards both technical and qualitative success of the material;
6. Reflect in writing (as assigned) on your progress toward your achievement of the learning goals;

I will assess your progress and achievement through:

1. Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class;
2. Mid-term and final evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback sheet (student conferences, written feedback);
3. Oral and/or written feedback on written self-assessments assigned to you during the semester.

### **Grading**

What factors determine your grade?

- Your achievement of the listed learning goals, your attention to the "Quick Tips Toward Success," and an understanding of Definition of Skills for 212, attached.
- Your daily work in class, a demonstration of your commitment to growth and improvement.
- Your attendance record (see attendance policy below.)

The final grade will reflect your level of mastery of the learning goals, attendance, and your overall performance in the course as per the below grading scale:

93-100 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-
87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	60-0 F

### **Attendance & Late Policies**

1. 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.
2. The dance department requires an **80% participation rate** in technique classes meeting twice per week in order to receive credit. 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.** Speak with the instructor first for guidance in your observation and note taking. If you miss more than six classes, you will be unable to pass the course and may be dropped.
3. Students are expected to be on time, dressed and ready for class, and to actively participate for the duration of the class period. *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 or more after class has begun should sit out and watch, which constitutes an observation. (You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy if you are 5 minutes late and join class.)
4. 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 exceed the two-absence limit, you may make up ONE by attending another 200 section (be sure to receive permission from the instructor at least 24 hours before attending.) Any make-up class needs to be completed BEFORE the last week of classes. Please bring me a sheet indicating date and class attended, signed by the instructor, to receive make-up credit.

### **Important Dates**

Dates and times for midterm conferences will be announced in class.

*Final Exam:* Friday, December 11, 2009 7-10 P.M.

## **Student Learning Goals \*as listed on Dance Technique Feedback Sheet**

To the degree appropriate for the intermediate 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 the full class.
6. Demonstrate commitment/responsibility as appropriate in and out of class.
7. Demonstrate dynamic alignment—as appropriate to exercises/combinations in the class (see below alignment statement) and involving awareness of center. Avoiding fixed/rigid habitual holding in any part.
8. Move on the beat when required.
9. Show appropriate use of the arms and legs as called for in an exercise/combination.
10. Show appropriate use of the feet, hands, and head as called for in an exercise/combination.
11. Show command of skills involving initiation of movement.
12. Show command of skills involving weight shift.
13. Show command of skills involving awareness of center.
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 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, 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;
2. Observe your daily work in class and make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals through group and individual corrections in class;
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. Be available for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts and progress in class;
5. Provide opportunities for you to assess your own and others progress in the class (i.e. self-assessments, group work, video days, etc.)

*The UNCG Departmental Statement on Alignment, Dance Technique Feedback Sheet, and the Definition of Skills for 212 are all posted on our Blackboard page. Please be familiar with all of this information so that you can be fully aware of the department's evaluation methods and goals for students in technique classes.*