

DCE 212-02: Intermediate Contemporary Dance

TR 11:00-12:15, HHP 322

Instructor: Jan Van Dyke

Office: 321 by appointment

Email: jevandyke@uncg.edu

Prerequisite: Departmental permission. May be repeated for credit.

Catalog Description: Further development of technical skills in contemporary dance, including increased movement capabilities, rhythmic accuracy, and spatial relationships, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities that lead to performance.

Topical Outline : This course will teach a technique based on articulation and precision, with an emphasis on moving through combinations in an exciting and structurally safe way with the goal of realizing individual expressive abilities for each student.

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

1. Maintain basic alignment while standing.
2. Maintain basic alignment while in motion.
3. Increase and apply strength and stamina.
4. Increase and apply flexibility/range of joint motion.
5. Grasp and retain the sequence of exercises and combinations.
6. Grasp and retain the nuances of rhythm/phrasing of exercises and combinations.
7. Grasp and retain the qualitative dimensions of exercises/combinations.
8. Maintain whole-body and body part clarity of spatial orientation in movement.
9. Move quickly from learning to performing; apply technique w/ sense of "self".
10. Implement technical/artistic corrections consistently & in all applicable contexts.
11. Maintain a commitment to instruction and correction by observing carefully, listening actively, practicing on the side, and assessing your own and others' progress and improvement as assigned.
12. Maintain a sense of personal responsibility for learning by completing written assignments on time and with thoroughness and clarity, and learning and using correct terminology.

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.

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:

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.)

*To do well in this class, show up to learn and always do your best:

- 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 toward a broader exposure to different styles and techniques in dance.

-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 don't be too hard on yourself; the actual process of learning is more important in this class than trying to attain perfection. And remember that your brain learns faster than your body.

* 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.

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: Do not wear baggy clothing that hides or distorts the "lines" and shapes you will make in this class. 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 expectation for all students is achievement in mastering the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course, as documented on the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet. This will provide the primary basis for calculating your final

letter grade and your attendance record will be an additional factor. 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

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 within two weeks of missing class. When injured or ill (but not contagious), students may still be counted as present if they attend class and takes notes as directed. Remember, if you are too sick or injured to take class then notify your instructor, stay home and please consider seeing a physician.

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

If you arrive after the opening exercise has finished, you will be asked to sit out and watch. Two late arrivals or early departures will equal one absence.