

Global Dance Forms: Introduction to Belly Dance

Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor Faun Finley

Class Times: Monday/Wednesday 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm

Course Prefix and Number: DCE 231-01

Course Title: Global Dance Forms: Introduction to Belly Dance

Credits: 1:0:3

Prerequisites/Co requisites: None

For Whom Planned: Interested dancers

Office: HHP 220F

Office Hours: By Appointment

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Catalog Description

Classical and vernacular dances from Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Americas. Particular dance form varies by semester.

Student Learning Goals:

To the degree appropriate for the advanced beginner level of dance training, students in this course will learn to:

1. Demonstrate and maintain body alignment intrinsic to and necessary for the performance of belly dance.
2. Grasp and retain the exercises and combinations presented in class.
3. Isolate the upper and lower body hemispheres from one another and specific areas of body within each hemisphere.
4. Layer belly dance movements with clarity and precision.
5. Identify the most common of the basic Middle Eastern rhythms used in belly dance.
6. Demonstrate correct rhythm as well as timing/phrasing of melodic movements in the performance of belly dance.
7. Demonstrate a deep exploration of the qualitative aspects of movement sequences.
8. Project energy while dancing, performing with confidence/full engagement.
9. Explore of the range and depth of motion in space and through space, going beyond one's comfort zone.
10. Perform creatively to improvisational prompts and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within belly dance technique.
11. Commitment, engagement, and responsibility to course assignments and activities (movement based, written, or as defined by instructor).

Teaching Strategies:

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

1. Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead students through belly dance movement isolations and sequences.
2. Observe students' daily work in class and (a) orally assess students' achievement of the learning goals and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals.*
3. Provide a written assessment of students' achievement at mid-term and again at the end of the semester.
4. Provide opportunities for email communication in which students may discuss their learning efforts.
5. Provide opportunities for students to assess their own and others' progress toward the achievement of the learning goals.**

Not every student will receive individual feedback during each class, but all students will receive individual feedback via the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet.

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***All comments should be respectful, thoughtful and well-reasoned. Intentionally disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. Comments made for the purpose of demeaning, disrespecting or insulting others will result in removal from the classroom.*

Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Assignments:

To achieve the learning goals, the fundamental and ongoing assignments in this class for which students are responsible are:

- Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components.
- Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that I provide in class.
- Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice.
- Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so.
- Reflect as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the learning goals.
- Observe other dancers and assess their performance as assigned.
- Address movement material on an ongoing basis both in and outside of class.

I will assess students' achievement of the learning goals through:

1. Daily oral feedback on work done in class.
2. Written mid-term and final evaluations of achievement via the **Belly Dance Feedback Sheet**.
3. Oral and/or written feedback of the accuracies and inaccuracies I perceive in your self-assessments.

Your achievement in mastering the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course, and as documented on the **Belly Dance Feedback Sheet**, will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade. Your attendance record and your score on the midterm and final movement evaluations assignments will be additional factors in calculating your final letter grade.

There is a midterm exam and a final project. The final project includes class presentations and cannot be made up.

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**.

Classroom Activities

Throughout the semester there will be activities in which you are expected to participate. The activities may include out of class assignments, group discussions, games, campus activities or writing assignments. If you should miss a classroom activity, it cannot be made up. You are not guaranteed advance notice of activities. If you decide to skip class, that means you are willing to risk missing a classroom activity assignment.

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Bonus Points/ Extra Credit

There may be opportunities to earn extra points throughout the semester. These opportunities may be pop quizzes, writing assignments, or attendance of an event. I will not guarantee advanced knowledge of such opportunities; some may be dependent on class attendance.

Attendance Policy

In classes meeting two days a week **two absences** are allowed per semester. 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-). When injured or ill (but not contagious), students may still be counted as present if they attend class and are able to accommodate some form of movement activity (to be prescribed by the instructor). If a student is not able to participate in class they must *first speak with the instructor to obtain permission to watch class*. However, this will not be counted as a day of participation in the class. You are allowed **one** make up lesson (only if you have four or more absences.) You may attend a verifiable belly dance class as a make-up. Participation requirements that count toward attendance are below.

Please note: there are no “excused” absences in this class. It is not necessary to e-mail regarding your absences unless you will be absent beyond the allowable limit. If you are ill or injured THEN you should see a physician and provide detailed documentation on your illness and limitations. You are allowed two absences in this class and ANY additional absences will adversely affect your grade. It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences. You will receive an “absences to date score” on the midterm and final DTFS.

Lateness:

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after class has begun should not come directly onto the dance floor. Any one who arrives after opening exercises should begin to warm up on the side of the class and wait for the instructor to indicate when to enter into class. If you arrive after the opening exercise is finished, please sit out and watch. Arriving after the opening exercise is finished three times will take your grade down 1/3 of a letter.

Participation

The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate (students must dance in 24 out of the 30 meetings in classes that meet twice a week, and in 36 out of the 45 meetings in classes that meet three times 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.

Make- Up Work

Classroom activities cannot be made up. Extra credit opportunities cannot be made up. If you miss the chance to earn extra points, there will not be any alternate assignments. Extra credit assignments are never accepted late. Exams can only be made up if there is a verifiable, valid excuse. The instructor decides if the absence is valid and verifiable. The exam will be harder than the original and taken at the instructor's convenience. Students that fail to provide a valid excuse for missing an exam or submit the exam late will receive a 0 for that exam.

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.¹ 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

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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.

Belly Dance Code of Conduct

- Hip scarf or belly dance belt must be worn every day. It does not have to be fancy, just something that shows your hip line parallel to the floor.
- A three-yard length of fabric – silk or very light chiffon – is required for veil technique. Veil technique instruction is scheduled for latter part of the semester. I will alert you when you need to start bringing your veil to class regularly.
- No socks in class. Please dance barefoot or in dance shoes.
- Electronic devices are not permitted. Any use of MP3 players or other electronic devices during class will result in an absence. Cell phones must be on silent or turned off during class. If a student chooses to text during class, the student will be asked to leave the class or the cell phone will be taken for the remainder of the class period.
- Do not chew gum during class.
- If you are more than 25 minutes late for class you will be marked absent.
- If you need to arrive late or leave early please let me know in advance.
- There are no stagnant “watches” in this class. If you are not able to participate due to injury/illness, you must alert me via email before class starts what movement you have been instructed to refrain from by the doctor. You must be able to participate in some way in order to receive credit for the class.
- Please revisit movement material between class times and be able to address any movement/ideas that you do not understand. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Check with fellow classmates to address material covered in your absence.
- I am available for discussion via e-mail before midterm evaluations and before final evaluation when necessary. Please do not send me emails unrelated to class.

Important Dates:

August 28th: Last day to drop w/tuition refund.

September 7th: Labor Day Holiday. No Class.

September 9th: Classes resume from Labor Day Holiday.

October 9th: October 13th: Fall Break. No Class.

October 14th: Classes resume from Fall Break.

October 16th: Last day to drop class w/out academic penalty

October 19th: Midterm Exam

November 24th-November 29th: Thanksgiving holiday.

November 30th: Classes resume from Thanksgiving holiday.

October 14th: Class resumes from Fall Break.

December 7th: Last day of classes.

December 11th, 7-10 pm: Final Project Presentations.