

University of North Carolina—Greensboro
FALL 2009 DCE 312/412AB 01
High Int/Adv Contemporary #83158
M/W 9:30—10:45am HHP 322

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Office Hours My schedule changes often, so please check my office door for availability. To make an appointment or if you ever have questions or concerns feel free to use e-mail or phone contact listed above. So that I might be better able to address your concerns, please specify the reason for your appointment.

Prerequisite Departmental permission. May be repeated for credit.

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

Topical Outline Students will work on realizing, maintaining, and, most importantly, transitioning through shapes. Various tools including video, video feedback, and selected readings will be used. Students will be expected to work individually, with partners, and in groups. Exploration of the technique and movement style of Martha Graham will compliment contemporary approaches to movement and performance technique with the goal of realizing and further understanding of individual expressive abilities for each student.

Warm-up exercises and combinations will develop over the course of the semester in length, speed (faster as well as slower), and in rhythmic and qualitative complexity to support the development of the Student Learning Goals (listed below).

Student Learning Goals To the degree appropriate for the high intermediate and advanced 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 \geq self \leq
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.

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 and again near the end of the semester;
- 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;

* 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:

- 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 in writing as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the learning goals;
- Observe other dancers and assess their performance as assigned.

I will assist your learning experience, assess your progress toward the course outline and evaluate your actual achievement of the above learning goals through:

- Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class;
- Written mid-term and final evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback sheet.
- Oral feedback through discussion of your written assignments.
- Availability for individual and/or group conferences
- Exams conducted throughout the semester (**including during final exams week**)
Schedule TBA

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

Your grade will be calculated using the following formula:

- 1) TECHNIQUE FEEDBACK SHEET is **90%** of your grade
- 2) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS contribute **10%** for completion of all written assignments
- 3) ATTENDANCE--1/3 letter grade subtracted for every absence beyond the allowance for this course. (See *Absences and Grades* below for allowed absences and policy for make up class. **Excessive absences will result in being dropped from the course.**

Absences and Grades You are allowed **two absences**. NO NOTES OR EXCUSES. Use your absences wisely. 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+). You are allowed **one** make up lesson (only required if you have three or more absences.) **All make-ups MUST be completed within two weeks of the corresponding absence.**

NOTE** If you are part of any professional/academic group that is approved by the university and will have an absence due to your responsibilities with that group please notify the instructor at the start of the semester.

Participation The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate (students must dance in 23 out of the 28 meetings in classes that meet twice a week, and in 34 out of the 42 meetings in classes that meet three times a week) to get credit for the course. **There is no sitting out allowed.** When injured or ill (but not contagious), students may still be counted as participating if they attend class and move to the degree the infirmity allows. Remember, if you are too sick or injured to take class then notify your instructor, stay home and please consider seeing a physician. Remember to make choices that are healthy for you.

If you become ill during the class please notify the instructor. Participation for that day will be at the discretion of the instructor.

If you arrive after the opening exercise has started please wait until the instructor recognizes you before joining the class. If you are late repeatedly you may be asked to sit out, in which case you will be marked as non-participatory. Two non-participatory marks equal one absence

After the first week of class you will be marked non-participatory and asked to sit out if you do not follow the dress code listed below. Two non-participatory marks equal one absence.

Requirements

- Dress Code—Any color leotard and tights or unitard. Additional warm-ups may be worn until traveling exercises.
- **Do not leave the studio for any reason without notifying the instructor first**
- **SIGN the document provided to indicate your understanding of and commitment to its contents** (this is your first assignment)
- Notebook with paper and space to store documents. You should bring it to every class.
- Attendance and **active** participation
- Demonstrated commitment to reaching the **Student Learning Goals**
- Adherence to the fundamental and ongoing assignments listed in the **Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Assignments**
- Adherence to the **Academic Honor Code** (See Student Handbook)
- Be prepared to work intelligently and to your full potential in each class

- Do not wear baggy clothing that hides or distorts the “lines” and shapes you will make in this class
- Be respectful of others (fellow students, instructors)
- No food, candy, or gum in the studio

Suggestions

- Long sleeves are recommended for floor work
- Extra clothing is permitted to keep warm. However, please remember that allowing the instructor to properly assess the accuracy of alignment and shape is part of **Student Learning Goals #1, 2, and 8**—Be prepared to remove outer layers once you are properly warmed up
- Prepare your “dance bag” with **kneepads**, soft soled shoes (soft jazz shoes), bandages, tape and antiseptic, towel, and a notebook to write down ideas and corrections
- Eliminate preconceptions and enter into the learning process with an open mind.
- Know that nothing you do is “wrong” as long as you apply yourself and maintain a spirit of intelligent inquiry
- CONFERENCES (see below) and MEETINGS are strongly suggested but not mandatory. You should try to meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your goals and progress.

IMPORTANT DATES

TUE 10/6 9:30-10:45Am MID TERM EXAM

Tue-Thu 10/6-8 CONFERENCES

Thu 12/10 8-11am FINAL EXAM