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DAN 428.01: Internship in Children's Dance

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Internship in Children's Dance
DANCE 428-2 credits
Spring Semester 2006
Instructor: Kaila June Gidley
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This class offers UM students an opportunity to teach children’s dance in an after-school, studio setting. UM students will work weekly with two diverse age groups. The Internship in Children’s Dance is designed as a laboratory for the active observation and questioning of teaching principles, classroom management, and child development. UM students serve as Teaching Assistants and role models for the children participants. As well, skills will be developed to support organizing, writing, and implementing lesson plans. Student interns will gradually be given more responsibility and to complete the semester will design and teach an entire children’s dance class.

UM students will be assigned to two of the following classes throughout the semester:
- Tuesdays 3:30-4:00 Creative Movement I (ages 3-4)
- Tuesdays 4:15-5:00 Creative Movement II (ages 5-6)
- Thursdays 4:10-5:00 Modern Dance and Choreography (ages 7-8)
- Thursdays 5:00-6:00 Choreography and Composition (ages 9-12)

All classes to be held in PAR/TV 035

Required Text
(available at The Bookstore at The University of Montana)

Requirements and Expectations
You are responsible for completing the required work by the deadlines specified for each assignment. You will not be reminded of the following required work throughout the semester. Please plan accordingly in order to complete the work on time.

1. **Attendance.** Attend and participate in the Children's Dance Class. *Your regular attendance is essential.* This class is based on experiential learning and requires your active presence for the development of skills. Additionally, the children count on you to be there as they rely on the consistency and familiarity of the class experience to grow and learn.

2. **Personal Writing Assignment (due January 31)**
Two page typed paper exploring: Why do you want to teach dance? Include discussion of the following:
- Do you have experience teaching dance or any other disciplines?
- Do you have any short term teaching goals or long term teaching goals? What are they?
- What age group/population do you desire to work with this semester? In general?
- What skills do you have to offer as a teacher?
- What skills do you want to develop this semester as an intern?

3. **Semester Long Journal Assignment (due May 10)**
After each class, take the time to sit down and write about the class structure and lesson design (before the following week) in a designated journal or notebook, which you will hand in to me on finals week. Each entry should be clearly dated with the age group recorded.
Your entry should relay the activities, exercises and specific structure of the class. You are recreating a detailed outline of the class lesson plan in your own words. Refer to The Language of Movement and additional handout material for help with the vocabulary used to express creative movement. Consider each entry to be a future tool for you, as you will eventually plan your own lessons.

For each child’s class you intern, you need a minimum of 7 entries describing the class outline as noted above. The journals will be graded based on the number of entries and the overall quality of information recorded.

4. Mini-Lesson Plans (2 required before or on April 20)
After observing for several weeks you will be expected to design two lesson plan activities focused on one part of the class (such as a warm-up exercise, a guided improvisation, a plie/tendu combination, or an across the floor sequence). You are expected to support your lesson with research from the library. You must reference two sources for each lesson. Submit the lesson plan to me for review and feedback one week before you wish to teach. Please turn in a final typed copy of your lesson plan to me on your teaching day.

5. Final Lesson Plan Assignment (to be completed by May 4)
During the final weeks of the class session, and after completing your mini-lessons, you will teach an entire lesson for each of your children’s dance classes. You will need to prepare your lesson plan in advance and submit to me for review and feedback at least one week before scheduling to teach. The final lesson plan assignment may include components of previous lessons while including your own unique perspective to the art of teaching. As with the mini-lessons, you are required to reference two texts for each lesson and turn in a final typed copy of your lesson plan to me on your teaching day.

REFERENCES: Your reference summary for both the mini-lessons and final lesson should include: Title and author of text and a well-developed, thoughtful review (several paragraphs) of how this book has influenced your understanding of creative movement.

6. Take-Home Final Essay (due May 10)
Specifics of essay to be given the last week of regularly held classes.

Assessment of final grades will be determined based on your overall ability to complete the above requirements as outlined. As well, your committed participation and attendance throughout the semester is of utmost importance in a successful semester as an intern in children’s dance. Please see me with any concerns or special needs.

PLEASE NOTE:
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html.