DAN 100A.01: Modern Dance I

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Spring 2007

Drama/Dance Dept.
Dance 100A, Section 1, Modern I, 2 credits
T, Th 12:40-2, PARTV, Rm. 005

Prof. Amy Ragsdale
Office Hours: T, Th 2-3; M, W, 12-12:30

GOALS:

- To familiarize you with the format and etiquette of taking a dance class.
- To introduce basic modern dance vocabulary.
- To introduce basic concepts of choreography through in-class exercises and through viewing and discussing several dance concerts, to increase your appreciation for contemporary dance as an audience member.
- To increase your ability to express yourself creatively through movement.
- To help you analyze and articulate, through written and oral exercises, your opinions about choreography you’ve seen.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Class will consist of three parts: technique, improvisation and composition exercises. The technique exercises will introduce basic contemporary dance vocabulary as well as increase strength, flexibility and general coordination. The exercises in improvisation offer a chance to explore technical concepts at your own pace and to explore your personal movement inclinations. The composition exercises help to increase your understanding of and appreciation for the art of choreography.

CRITIQUE REQUIREMENTS:

You are required to attend three dance concerts and turn in a written critique evaluating what you saw. See “Dance Technique Class” Sheet for required and optional concert dates and times and general guidelines for writing a critique.

Critiques should be typed, double spaced, and thorough but succinct. They will be due approximately a week after the last performance of the concert run. This will be specified in class.

ATTENDANCE:

You are allowed to miss only two classes, for whatever reason. After this you may make up a total of two classes (by participating in the other section of Modern I and having the professor sign a note that you did, or by observing any other dance class offered by the department and writing a one-page observation of how that class was similar to and different from this one). Absences beyond this will lower your grade by a point for each class missed.
GRADING:

Your grade will be based on your ability to execute basic vocabulary, to pick up movement sequences, to take corrections given in class, to articulate your thoughts in written critiques and thoughtfully analyze what you’ve seen, and my evaluation of your general attitude, effort and improvement over the course of the semester…. and then, of course, attendance.

The requirements for students taking the class Credit/No Credit are the same as for those taking the class for a traditional grade. Auditors will not be subject to the attendance requirements or required to attend concerts or write critiques.

Note: 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.

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