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DANC 100A.03: Modern Dance I

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DANC 100A Section 02: Modern Dance I (2 credits)
Monday/Wednesday 10:40am-12:00pm PARTV 005

FALL 2013

The University of Montana

School of Theatre & Dance

Office Hours: By appointment only **M/W 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

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Course Description

A contemporary/modern dance class designed to lead beginning movers through a series of exercises and movement combinations that introduce contemporary dance vocabulary, and that are technically (alignment, strength, flexibility) and intellectually stimulating. This course further proposes to unite one's body, mind and creative energy through such movement sequences and excite participants about dance.

Objectives

1. To introduce contemporary dance techniques, philosophies, approaches and styles in a safe and inspiring environment.
2. To provide an outlet in which students are encouraged to develop their technical, kinesthetic, intellectual and creative capacities in movement.
3. To guide students to move in new, unfamiliar and unexpected ways.
4. To develop individual and group performance and improvisational skills relative to a beginning technical level.
5. To promote an appreciation, if not love, for dance as an art form and educational tool.

Course Content

I. Introduction

- A. Description of course
- B. Structure of course
- C. Expectations (Attendance and Grading Policy)
- D. Writing Assignments

II. Description of the Course: The Technical Aspects

- A. Demonstration of Line and Form
 - a. Students become able to move upper body without displacing the pelvis
 - b. Students understand the difference between rotated and parallel positions
- B. Dynamic Alignment
 - a. Students have a basic understanding of alignment
 - b. Students demonstrate safe second position plie, both demi and grand
 - c. Students land safely from jumps
- C. Effective Body Patterning
 - a. Students coordinate breath with movement
 - b. Students understand all concepts of Body Patterning:
 - i. Breath
 - ii. Core/Distal
 - iii. Head/Tail
 - iv. Body Half
 - v. Upper/Lower
 - vi. Cross lateral
 - vii. Contra-lateral
 - viii. Spiral
- D. Spatial Awareness

- a. Students understand concepts related to space
 - b. Students understand kinesphere, personal space and shared space
 - c. Students have basic partnering skills (counterbalance, meeting of each other's weight, positive/negative space)
 - d. Students demonstrate ability to move within space while maintaining relationship to others
- E. Rhythmic Accuracy
- a. Students understand concepts of time
 - b. Students dance with an awareness of the beginnings and endings of phrases
 - c. Students demonstrate ability to accent movement
- F. Initiation and Follow-Through
- a. Students have an awareness of body part initiation
 - b. Students understand how to use weight and momentum in body part initiation
- G. Strength, Flexibility and Endurance
- a. Students develop strength in torso, feet, arms and overall alignment
 - b. Students descend to and ascend from the floor safely
 - c. Students have familiarity with proper stretching techniques for major muscle groups
 - d. Students have the ability to easily complete a 1.5 hour technique class
- H. Professionalism, Etiquette and Performance Ability
- a. Students understand concepts related to movement quality
 - b. Students develop their concentration efforts
 - c. Students demonstrate classroom etiquette
 - d. Students demonstrate personal investment in class
 - e. Students demonstrate willingness to experiment
 - f. Students have an appreciation for different movement approaches

III. Structure of Course

Class begins promptly at **10:40 AM**. Students arriving late will not be permitted to take class (for safety purposes), and will instead observe and take notes. Three observations equal one absence. Class will end at **12:00 PM**. Students are required to remain in class until it finishes. Consistent tardiness and/or departure from class before its end will result in lowering of one's grade, if a student arrives late three times or leaves early three times it will equal one absence. To avoid injury, it is recommended that you arrive early to class to begin warming yourself up, bring water to class and be sure that you have eaten before class. Please notify the instructor of any injury (current or past) that may affect your full performance in class. Should an injury require that a student observe class, it is expected that the student dutifully watch the class and apply what is being taught and discussed to her/his own improvement in class. Notes should be taken for each part of class. This observation should result in a substantial set of notes that should be submitted to the instructor following the class observed. While observing class, students are required to be mindful and quiet as to not detract from the teaching and performance efficacy of the teacher, classmates and accompanist.

Attire

Street shoes are not permitted in the dance studios. Movement will be experienced with bare feet. Students should plan to wear clothing suitable for movement and should take into account keeping the body warm for the beginning and end of class, bring extra clothing. It is also recommended that dancers own and bring kneepads to class. These can be ordered on line at: www.contactquarterly.com . To rent a locker: See Theatre & Dance Department Administrative Assistant, PARTV 199 before noon each day.

IV. Expectations: Attendance and Grading Policy

- A.** NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIOS.
- B.** All students enrolled in classes who are not Theatre/Dance majors are highly encouraged to sign up as C/NC. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, in order to receive Expressive Arts credit, a student must enroll for a traditional grade and the grade received must be a C or higher. December 6 is the last day to change to C/NC, *and may be done after October 29 by petition only.*

C. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT THE FOLLOWING:

- a. **Dancers on Location (Site Specific)**, October 12-13 (Sat-Sun) noon, Mansfield Library Mall; free
- b. **Dance Studio Works**, November 15-16 (Fri-Sat) 6:30 and 8:30 each night, Open Space; General Admission \$5/ one show, or \$8/both shows. Tickets at the door
- c. **Dance Up Close**, December 3-7 (Tues-Sat) 7:30pm, Masquer Theatre; \$9 General Admission, \$6 required students

Your instructor MAY choose to offer students a chance to use attendance at additional performances to make up for absences at the instructor's discretion:

Tickets for performances in the PARTV Center are on sale in the Box Office in the Lobby of the PARTV Center, unless otherwise noted.

Your instructor will require a written critique, quiz, or something else of his or her own choosing. You will need to give specific examples, so take notes either during or after the concerts. As you watch, it will be helpful to think about the following:

1. Which pieces you felt strongly about (i.e., either really liked, disliked, were puzzled by, etc.)
2. On the choreography of each piece;
 - a. What is the theme or movement idea?
 - b. What is the style of dance and how does it work with the theme?
 - c. What is it about the movement or the way the piece progressed that made you react as you did?
3. Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique.
4. Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets and sound score. Did they work with the choreography?

Provide specific examples to back up your opinions!

Attendance: Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body *do* it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, or reading a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, students are granted two permissible absences. Students may also make up two absences by watching, and writing a one-page observation of another dance class that is approximately the approximate level and style of class that one is taking. **AFTER A STUDENT HAS USED HER/HIS TWO ABSENCES AND TWO MAKEUPS, THE STUDENT WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ABSENCE FOLLOWING.**

Grading: Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason grading is not assigned a point breakdown. To earn an "A" a student must show signs of aptitude for dance technique and musicality have an energetic and attentive attitude, progress over the semester and be at the top level of the class. Additionally, the student must fulfill all attendance, critique and self-assessment requirements. Students may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if there are exceptional circumstances that have been discussed with the instructor. In order to receive Expressive Arts credit, a student must enroll for a traditional grade and the grade received must be a C or higher.

V. Writing Assignments

Dancers are highly encouraged to see all available dance concerts. The instructor will require a written critique for which the guidelines will be distributed prior to the concert. Students will need to give specific examples, so it is recommended that one take notes either during or after the concerts. The student's grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for a critique that is not submitted (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+ and you will receive a "C+").

Students are required to see three concerts and write two critiques for this course.

PLEASE NOTE: At any point you feel further discussion would aid your development, please schedule a meeting with the instructor. Further assignments may be scheduled throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

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 http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.