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DANC 160A.01: Dance Forms - Irish

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Recommended Citation

Donnelly, Sarah R., "DANC 160A.01: Dance Forms - Irish" (2014). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 1848.

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DANC 160A-01
Irish Forms: Irish
2 credits
School of Theatre & Dance

*“Dance as if no one’s watching; sing as if no one’s listening,
and live everyday as if it were your last” Irish Proverb.*

Fall Semester 2014
PARTV 035 (Ballet Studio)
Wednesdays from 2:40-4:00pm

Instructor: Sarah Donnelly

Contact Information: sari.rose@hotmail.com
(406) 439-8544

Office Hours: Before/After class or by appointment

I. Rationale:

This course exists to introduce students with limited to no dance experience to Irish Step Dancing and céilí Dancing.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:

Specific Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to dance and perform various basic traditional Irish Dancing moves (such as the Skip 2 3’s, Leap 2 3’s, and 7’s) as well as Irish Dancing steps (rise and grind & sink and grind).
- Be able to dance and perform various céilí dances from *Ár Rinci Fóirne*, and apply learning to social ceili setting, as well as answer questions about various movements in aforementioned céilí dances.
- Have a greater understanding and insight into the historical and cultural traditions behind various Irish Dancing traditions, as well as the connection dance has to music.
- Be able to identify dances by their parts and movements as well as music.

III. Format and Procedures:

Class will meet each Wednesday from 2:40pm-4:00pm. Please arrive promptly so we can start on time. Each class will start with a warm-up and stretch, followed by a review of the previous class’s dances. Aside from water, no food or drinks are allowed in the dance studio. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Be sure to come ready to dance, wearing comfortable clothes that you

can move around in. Absolutely no outside street shoes are allowed in the studio. You are welcome to wear jazz shoes or Irish Dancing shoes if you choose, however dancing barefoot or in socks is also fine. On average we will work on three dances a week.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy: Class attendance and participation is mandatory. If a student knows that they are going to miss a class, they need to clear it in advance. Arriving promptly is also important. Dancers arriving late will receive a 5-point deduction from their daily participation grade. Only two unexcused absences are allowed a semester before it is reflected in your grade, with a 25 point deduction for each unexcused absence beyond two. A large percentage of your grade (80%) is based on attendance and participation, so please be sure to be an active and engaged learner! If you are injured and can not dance, you will need a doctor's note and will still be required to come to class and observe. Extra credit opportunities may be presented, and students can make up two missed classes by observing two other dance classes (see #4 below under "Grading Procedures" for make up opportunities) and turning in a **1-page double-spaced** written critique.

2. Course readings:

There is no required text for this course however, if you are looking for background reading material I can point out a few good resources. There are also several books available to take home and read, although none are required reading.

3. Essay:

A two-page double-spaced typed essay is due on **December 3rd** to be emailed to the instructor at sari.rose@hotmail.com or turned in during class. This essay is worth 20% of your grade and is required to pass the class. This is a research paper pertaining to any topic of Irish dance (history/competitions/costumes/etc.). It can be turned in at any point during the semester but **no later than December 3rd**. You may hand it in to the instructor during class or email it to sari.rose@hotmail.com.

4. Final:

The final will be held in our regular dance room at our regular class time on **Wednesday, December 10th**. The instructor will have you perform specific ceili's and dance steps from the semester with your fellow students. Students must show a basic understanding of steps and dance types while staying on time with the music.

V. Grading Procedures:

Grades will be based on attendance and participation, and the final paper. The final course grade will be based on the following grade scale:

1. *Final Grade Break:*

80% Attendance and Participation

20% Essay and Final

2. *Grade: (% of total class points)*

90% = A 80% = B

70% = C 60% = D

59% = F Incomplete with Medical Documentation

3. All students enrolled who are NOT theater/dance majors are highly encouraged to sign up as credit/no credit. PLEASE NOTE HOWEVER, in order to receive an expressive arts credit, you must enroll for a traditional letter grade, and the grade received must be a C or higher. **December 5th is the last day to change to C/NC, and may be done after October 27th by petition only.**

4. If taking this class for expressive arts credit/traditional grading, attendance is required at the following:

A. **Dancers on Location (Site Specific):**

October 4-5 (Sat-Sun) noon; Mansfield Library Mall;
Free

B. **Dance Up Close:**

November 4-8 (Tues-Sat) 7:30pm, Masquer Theatre;
\$9 General Admission, \$6 required students. Tickets at Box Office in PARTV lobby

C. **Dance Studio Works:**

November 21-22 (Fri-Sat) 6:30 and 8:30 each night, Open Space;
General Admission \$5/ one show, or \$8/both shows. Tickets at the door

AND choose **one** of the following (required):

Settle

Aug. 29-30 and Sept 5-6 (Fri-Sat) at 7:30 pm and 2:00 on 9/6, Open Space; Tickets at barebaitdance.org or \$12 at door day of show

Fingertips Toward Floor, Head Follows, or The Lazy Sexy Peepshow

Oct 17-19 (Fri-Sun) at 7:30pm. Stage 112 at Elk's Lodge, 112 N Pattee;
Tickets \$10 in advance \$12 day of show at barebaitdance.org

Headwaters Gala Concert

November 21-23 (Fri-Sun) at 7:30pm and Sun matinee.
MCT, Center for the Performing Arts, 200 N Adams St;
Tickets \$15 General and \$10 students at headwatersdance.org

Your instructor will require a one-page double-spaced written critique. 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. 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!

VI. 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.

VII. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the University of Montana policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations. 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/>.

VIII. Additional Resource Readings

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/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

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 **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student’s grade.

IX. 2014 -2015 Academic Calendar & 2014-2015 Academic Catalog

The 2014-2015 Academic Calendar is available via: <http://www.umt.edu/provost/academiccalendar/>

The 2014-2015 Catalog is available online, and may be viewed via: <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/>