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DANC 165A.90: Dance Forms - African

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Dance Forms: African (Danc 165A, Sec. 90, 2 credits, CRN 35017)

Instructor: Tarn Ream Tarn.Ream@umontana.edu 549-7933

School of Theatre and Dance and School of Extended and Lifelong Learning

Winter Session 2016 (Jan 04 - Jan 22) Monday through Friday 4:00-6:00pm

Performing Arts/TV Building, Room 005 (Note: I do not have an office for office hours, but I am available for scheduled meeting times.)

Course Description and Objectives: An introduction to the movement vocabulary of traditional African dance—learn specific dances (and how the rhythms drive them), songs, and a cultural/historical background, as well as getting a taste for how African music and dance have shaped modern forms. This class is suitable for all skill levels and accompanied by live music. This course fulfills an Expressive Arts General Education Competency Requirement.

Important dates:

Please check the website for more

info: <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/Wintersession2016RegistrationDeadlinesChart.pdf>

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5pm Last day to add/drop or change grading options for through CyberBear

Monday, January 18, 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Holiday, NO CLASS!

Requirements:

- 1. NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIOS!**
- 2. To receive Expressive Arts (General Education Requirement) credit for this class, a student must enroll for a traditional grade and receive a grade of “C” or higher. Students registered for Credit/No Credit option must perform at the equivalent of a “D” grade or higher to receive Credit.**
- 3. *The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.***
- 4. Attendance (see attendance policy below).**
- 5. Written assignments (see over)**

Grading policy

Grading in dance is not quantifiable, and I do not have a point breakdown, but can offer some general guidelines.

To receive an “A” you must:

- *show aptitude for dance technique and musicality
- *attend class and fulfill written requirements
- *complete additional assignments on time
- *have an energetic, attentive attitude
- *progress over the session

* You will receive an “F” for lack of attendance and/or assignments (see below). You may receive an “incomplete” (I) only if you have exceptional circumstances that you have discussed with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body DO IT. You gain flexibility and strength, take in the music and hear how the rhythms fit with the dance, and build on a core of movement when you come to class. Therefore **it is important that you NOT MISS CLASS** and I expect you here every time, **ON TIME** (if you are consistently tardy, I will start docking your grade)! You will be given **one free absence**, to deal with the unpredictable circumstances and requirements of your life. In addition, you may also **make up two classes** in one of two ways: **1)** by taking an additional African-based class and writing a 2 paragraph account of what you learned (preferable) or **2)** observing or participating in another dance class and writing a 2 paragraph account about your experience. When you submit your make-up paragraphs, include the date of the class that you are making up near the top with your name and ID. ***AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR ONE ABSENCE AND TWO MAKE-UPS, YOU WILL BE DOCKED 1/3 OF A GRADE (e.g. from B+ to B) FOR EVERY FOLLOWING ABSENCE.**

Written assignments

A written "response" is required each week and is due on Friday of that week (note: due on Thursday of the final week!) for dances you will learn—we will work on about 2 dances each week, and switch to new dances each week. I suggest you take personal notes during or after class to help in your writing assignment. You can write about just one or all of the dances we work on, and I encourage you to be specific about your experience. Outside sources/information are acceptable, AS LONG AS THEY ARE PROPERLY REFERENCED and from a "reputable" source. Assignments should be well-written, 1-2 pages using standard font and format (please use single or 1.5 space to save paper), and should include the following (if applicable):

1. How did you personally respond to the dance(s) you learned?
2. What is the name and traditional purpose for the dance(s)? What is the modern use of the dance (if applicable)?
3. What ethnic group and country did the dance come from?
4. If applicable, what is the traditional costuming for the dance?
5. If applicable, what were the traditional instruments/arrangements for the dance?
6. If applicable, when the dance was choreographed in class how did the choreography fit the dance?

Written assignment schedule

Week 1 (due Friday, January 8): Please write 1-2 paragraphs about why you signed up for the class and what you hope to achieve in this class. Then write 2-3 paragraphs of "response" (as outlined above) to dance(s) from the first week of class.

Week 2 (due Friday, January 15): Written "response". In addition, write 2-3 paragraphs about the video(s) (note: response to video can be included in response for following week).

Week 3 (due Thursday, January 21): Written "response".

***Your grade will be lowered by 2/3 of a grade (eg. B+ to B-) for every written assignment you do not hand in. You will be docked 1/3 of a grade for assignments turned in late.**

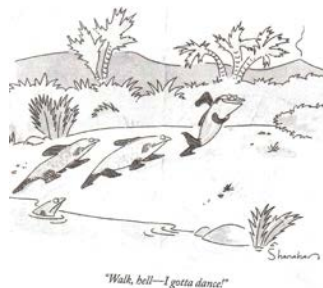
Locker rentals (\$7/semester; \$13/year, prices include a lock) are available for ALL students in the dance classes. We recommend that you do NOT leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, or dance studios, as **thefts do occur**. See the Dance Administrative Assistant (Teresa), in the booth above 005 from 8-noon M-F, to rent a locker.

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://www.umn.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umn.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.



"Well, hell—I gotta dance!"