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Spring 1-2016

DANC 191.01: Special Topics - Beginning Hip-Hop

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Finding Your Groove: Urban Dance at UM

Spring 2016

University of Montana
School of Theatre & Dance

Dance 191 2.0 Credits

M/T/W/R 5:40-7:00pm

Instructor of Record:

Karen Kaufman Email: Karen.Kaufmann@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 11:30--1, Friday 11:30--1 PARTV 185

Guest Artist

Marcus White info@theofficialmrw.com 336-501-2456 (ICE)

Office Hours: Scheduled by Appointment. Midterm Chats – Week 3

What is This?

This introductory class will help students achieve their inner groove through the lens of urban dance. Focused on experiential learning, this class encourages students to develop musicality, improvisational and performance skills, as well as define their own understanding of the historical and social contexts of some street and urban dance styles within an American context.

What Will I Learn?

By the end of this course, the student will:

1. Gain an introductory understanding of street/urban dance history within a larger social dance framework including key events, figures, and “dancestors”/ ‘icons’
2. Develop increased body awareness, strength, stamina, and flexibility
3. Develop improvisational and performance skills in a collaborative environment
4. Increase knowledge about dance studies as a field including performance viewing, analysis, and critique
5. Apply skills learned in this course to other coursework within their degree program at the university and beyond
6. Use knowledge to work toward expressing my voice and find my groove within my own legacy

I Want Your “Feedback”

Marcus White will ensure students are achieving student goals through prompt, thoughtful feedback. As instructor, he will:

- Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement experiences designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of student learning goals
- Observe daily work in class and provide verbal feedback about student’s achievement of learning goals as well as provide recommendations for improvement in achieving these learning goals.

- Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which student and instructor can discuss student's learning efforts and progress.
- Not every student will receive individual feedback during each class, but all students will receive individual feedback regularly throughout the course of the semester.

Attendance Policy

Absence (A)

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.

There are twenty (20) meetings for this class. Your attendance grade total is 20 points. You are able to miss two (2) with no penalty, meaning you can attend eighteen (18) classes with no penalty. Each absence beyond these two will deduct one point from your attendance grade. You will receive an extra point for each class you attend beyond eighteen (18) classes. Your attendance grade is part of your participation grade. |

Make Up Classes (MU)

Feb 5-6 Performance - ACDA Benefit Concert - Attendance Make Up

(Fri-Sat) at 7:30 pm; Open Space; \$5 donation at the door

In-Class Discussion (with notes)

Must bring program note and ticket stub for make up credit

Observation Days (O)

You may observe class only if arrangements have been made with the instructor due to injury or illness. While observing, you should actively take notes about the class session and hand in those notes to the instructor at the conclusion of the class. **THREE observation days equals one absence.**

Tardies (T)

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after class has started will need to take an observation day. For student's safety, anyone who arrives to class late but before the 15 minute mark should begin independent body warm up. **THREE tardies equal one absence.**

Course Content and Grading

GRADING

An "A" Student:

- show signs of aptitude for dance technique, and musicality
- have an energetic, attentive attitude
- progress over the semester
- be at the top level of the class
- and, of course, fulfill the attendance, critique and exam requirements

You will receive an "F" if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an "F."

Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+ and you will receive a "C+").

You may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if you have exceptional circumstances, which you have discussed with the instructor.

Grading Scale:

97-100=A+

93-96= A

90-92=A-

87-89=B+

83-86=B

80-82= B-

77-79=C+

73-76= C

70-72= C-

67-69= D+

63-66= D

60-62= D-

Below 60= F

Your FINAL grade will be calculated using the following formula:**PARTICIPATION****60% of your grade****'CREW CRED' (TMP + PLAYLISTS)****15% of your grade****'PERSONAL CRED' (VIDEO RESPONSES AND JOURNAL) 25% of your grade*****Participation will include: (plus Ground Rules):***

- Being on time, ready to dance each class
- Ability to work in groups, pairs, independently
- Attendance and active participation in class movement experiences in class and post-studio assignments and expectations
- Demonstrated commitment to reaching the Student Learning Objectives

Late Work/Missed Work: Submission of late work is subjected to **reduced or no credit*****Personal Cred - 25%******Journal (Due Feb 22nd)***

There are several required journal entries throughout the course of the semester. The prompts for these journals can be found on Moodle. The expectation is that you may also use the journal to archive your journey in the classroom, document any phrases, key figures, music, or ideas that resonated with you. This is your opportunity to archive your experiences in the class. Some entries will ask more of your time than others, plan accordingly. These entries should be written in the first-person.

Video Responses (Due Feb 8th, 15th, 22nd)

These responses are video dances that capture your response to each of the three units including understanding, reactions, likes/dislikes, questions, etc. to our in-class discussions, readings, videos, etc.

Crew Cred - 15%

Crews, houses, families, posses, homies - your group is your support system throughout the semester. These social formations are critical in helping keep each other accountable and to create a community of supportive individuals. The individual within the collective strengthens the community. These assignments are designed to encourage team building and collaboration. All members receive P or F for these assignments. P= Passing (for completing the work) F=Failing (for not completing the work)

Term Movement Project

End of semester project - see Moodle

Spotify Playlists (Due Feb 3rd, 9th, 18th)

Due at the end of each unit, these playlists help students develop a collection of songs that are specific to each unit and dance form. This musical understanding is vital and will help students develop their ear and musical sensibilities when placed in a dance experience beyond the university. Each group must submit their lists to info@theofficialmrw.com. Must include at least seven songs each unit.

All music played in class can be found here <https://goo.gl/s8rMYJ>

Additional Information:

NOTE: LOCKER RENTALS 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 FREQUENTLY OCCUR. LOCKERS MAY BE RENTED FOR \$7.00/SEMESTER, OR \$13/TWO SEMESTERS. (see Dance Program administrative assistant—door across from women's dressing room and then up the stairs.)**

Dress Code—Dress comfortably in clothing that you are able to move in. Please avoid wearing clothing that will disrupt the learning process including extremely short shorts or clothing that exposes the bare chest area. Instructor discretion. Please avoid the following footwear: ballet slippers, heels, socks, jazz shoes, loafers, foot undeez, etc. Wear clean sneakers. Please avoid wearing jewelry or watches for the safety of yourself and others.

Special Note On Correcting: In some instances the instructor may have to correct through physical touch to inform and cue the body.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Plagiarism, whether from the Internet or from print sources, will result in failing the course and may be the cause of immediate dismissal from the University. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism consult the university web site for detailed explanations.

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. www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/201570ImportantDatesDeadlines.pdf

Ground Rules (Class-Generated)
Have Fun
Dance Hard
Be Kind To Yourself
Find Your Groove/Style - Grow
Be Open Minded
Be Comfortable Dancing in front of others
JUDGEMENT FREE SPACE
Be Encouraging/Supportive
Sweat - put in work
Be Fully Present
Share the Space
Let Loose, Relieve Stress

Tentative Class Schedule

Each class will consist of warm-up to increase stamina, strength, and flexibility. We will then follow up with a series of loco motor drills to learn and develop foundational urban dance steps that will be used in choreographed and/or freestyle (improvisation) exercises. This course is a survey course in some of the various American urban social dances. Expect to move each day. Special topics are listed under each day. The following is a tentative outline of the course. Topics and timelines may change based on needs of the class.

Pre-class Videos: :<https://goo.gl/ACAfhm>

Spotify Playlists: <https://goo.gl/s8rMYJ>

Jan 25 – Introductions

- Energizer
- Teacher of Record
- Class Documents / Moodle
- Doodle
- Entry 1: What is Hip-Hop?
- Entry 2: Three Goals
- Sample Class

Unit 1 – The ‘Golden Era’ of Hip-Hop

Week 1

Jan 26 – Breakin

- Entry: Favorite Musicians/Bring Your Bars

Jan 27- Breakin

- Bar Sharing

Jan 28 - Breakin Review

Jam Circle
Crews

Post-Studio This Week:

WATCH: *Freshest Kids* - Journal Entry 3 (Rap or Essay Response)

READ: *Can't Stop, Won't Stop* Journal Entry 4 (Text Response)

Week 2 -Finding the Funk

Feb 1 - Funk Styles (Poppin / Lockin)

· In Class Discussion: 'Finding the Funk' - *The Freshest Kids / Can't Stop Won't Stop*

History Review

Add to last week's combo

Feb 2 - Funk Styles

Feb 3 Unit 1 Review

- Watch *History* in class (20 Minutes)
- Review /Recording Day

Feb 4 Krumping/Clowning

- Jam Circle
- Writing and/or Rap Workshop
- Crew Spotify Playlist Due – *Breakin, Poppin', Lockin'*

Post Studio This Week: Unit 1 Video Response / WATCH: 'Rize' / READ: 'Digging'

Feb 5-6 Performance - ACDA Benefit Concert - Attendance Make Up

(Fri-Sat) at 7:30 pm; Open Space; \$5 donation at the door

In-Class Discussion (with notes)

Must bring program note and ticket stub for make up credit

Unit 2: Shifts in Africanist Aesthetics within American Urban Dance

Week 3 -Finding the Groove

Feb 8 – Krumping/Clowning

- Unit 1 Video Response Due (on Moodle)
- Concert Debrief

Feb 9 – Unit 2 Review

- In Class Discussion: 'Rize' / "Digging"
- Crew Spotify Playlist Due - Gangsta Rap, Krumping, Krunk/Crunk, Trap
- Review/Recording Day

Feb 10 - House

- Jam Circle

Feb 11 - House

Post Studio This Week: Unit 2 Video Response / WATCH: 'Paris is Burning' / SEE: Performance??

Unit 3: Finding the 'Realness'

Week 4- Finding the Realness

Feb 15 House/Vogue

- Unit 2 Video Response Due

Feb 16– Vogue Workshop

- In-Class Discussion: “Paris”. Vogue vs. Waacking

Feb 17 – Waacking Workshop

Feb 18 – Unit 3 Review

- Jam Circle
- Unit 3 Review
- Review/Recording Day
- Crew Spotify Playlist Due – House, Disco, Vogue House

Post-Studio This Week: / Performance Viewing – TMP Rehearsal

Week 5 - Finding Your Groove

Feb 22 – Review of Semester

- Urban Dance Semester Review
- TMP Rehearsal
- Journals Due

Feb 23 – Term Movement Project Crew Rehearsal

Feb 24 – Term Movement Project Crew Rehearsal

Feb 25 Term Movement Project – Crew Performance

March 23-26 Required Performance - Dance in Concert

(Wed-Sat) at 7:30 pm; Montana Theatre; General Admission \$20 / student \$16. Tickets at Box Office in PARTV lobby. Performance and or writing reflection due March 31st. Failure to attend and respond will result in ____ point deduction

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.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/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 *Student 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.