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DAN 328.01: Teaching Dance to People with Disabilities

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Teaching Dance to People with Disabilities

Mondays 5:10-6:00pm

1 credit--DA 328

Karen A. Kaufmann 243-2870

Office: PARTV Room 185

This class is an introduction to teaching creative movement, dance and creative arts to special populations. The term "special populations" refers to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments, or who have physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities.

This course involves seminars, independent work and on-going dance sessions with people with disabilities through the New Visions Dance Program. New Visions is a public dance class for people with disabilities, sponsored by VSA Arts of Montana.

UM students must have an interest in special populations and the arts and be able to work conscientiously and independently. Some reading and written work will be required.

Text: (available at The Bookstore at the University of Montana)

A Guidebook for Teaching Dance to People with Disabilities. (Draft)

Karen Kaufmann, © 2000.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** This class meets only once a week and your commitment is of the utmost importance. One absence will not affect your grade. Two or more absences will lower your grade by 1/2 point per absence. Arriving late or leaving early is considered an absence.

2. **The Journal.** Throughout the semester keep a journal of your experiences relating to this course. This may involve notes from the seminars and your own reading, and your impressions from New Visions. Be specific, personal and in-depth. These are some questions to consider:

What is being learned?

What are your impressions of "what works" and what doesn't work? Why?

Where are the participants at physically? Emotionally? Intellectually?

What are the interpersonal dynamics of the class?

What do you think the participants need more of? Less of?

How would you describe your rapport with participants?

What changes do you notice from week to week?

What area(s) do you want to know more about?

3. *Mini-Lessons*

Once you get to know the class you will be asked to write and conduct several lesson plans focusing on one part of the class (warm-up, center floor, across the floor). Submit your lesson plan to Karen and get either written or verbal feedback. Schedule lesson and teach. Afterwards write a self-evaluation of how it worked. Be honest. How would you improve it?

4. **Class Presentation.** At the end of the semester you will give a 15 minute presentation on a topic you will choose, related to this class. Specifics TBA.

Note: Those taking the class for a second time may be given separate assignments.