

Spring 2-1-2017

DANC 108A.12: Dance Forms - Hip Hop

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Recommended Citation

Akuchu, Tsiambwom M., "DANC 108A.12: Dance Forms - Hip Hop" (2017). *Syllabi*. 8744.
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Dance Forms: Introduction to Hip-Hop
Spring 2016
University of Montana, School of Theatre & Dance
DANC 108A.12 2 Credits
M//W/F 1:00-1:50pm McGill 125
Final: Thursday, May 11th 3:20pm – 5:20pm

Instructor of Record: Tsiambwom Akuchu
Email: tsiambwom.akuchu@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:20-12:20, Thursday 11:00-12 McGill 216

Course Description:

This introductory class is a survey course designed to expose students to urban movement and art forms. 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.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. **Express themselves, practice and perform in a variety of urban dance forms including but not limited to:** Poppin', Waving, House, Vogue, Waacking, Breaking, Krumping, Improvisation, Social Dance etc. Using the movement vocabulary learned throughout the course students are able to express themselves using the fundamentals of the dance styles in culminating dances and/or original choreographed work that demonstrates the learned material.
2. **Understand the genres and/or forms that have shaped the medium.** Students will demonstrate knowledge of these dance forms using terminology, and culture. Students will be able to identify and perform each of the movement styles offered.
3. **Develop increased body awareness, strength, stamina, flexibility, fitness** as well as improvisational and performance skills in a collaborative environment.
4. **Critique the quality of their own work and that of others.**
The Dance Program values critique as part of the learning goals of all dance students. All students who study the diverse offerings through Dance Forms courses are required to attend dance concerts and write critiques about the quality of the work they are seeing.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to the following shows (subject to change to fit the needs of this class):

Dance In Concert: March 8-11, 2017 / Montana Theatre

Dance New Works: May 2-6, 2016 / The Open Space

Students will be provided with opportunities (as they come up) to test, improve, and develop their skills in a real world setting, be it social or performative. Hip-Hop is commonly referred to a “street dance” largely due to it’s origins in underprivileged minority youths. The dances were created “on the street” outside of a studio

Students will also need access to Social Media platforms or streaming services such as Facebook, Instagram, Netflix or YouTube. A majority of Hip-Hop content is mediatized and readily found online, so in lieu of some live performances, students will be asked to watch and discuss videos found online such as:

Netflix Documentary: Hip-Hop Evolution

YouTube Channel: Keone and Mari

Facebook video posts from pages such as YakFilms or stance.

Recommended viewing and reading material:

WATCH:

Freshest Kids, Rize , Paris is Burning

READ:

Can’t Stop Won’t Stop, Digging

Attendance Policy

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.**

Absences:

After 1 week of absences (3 classes for M/W/F), your grade will begin to be effected. Generally speaking, after a week of absences your grade will be lowered an increment.

Observation Days:

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.

Tardies

Students who arrive more than 10 minutes after class has started will need to take an observation day. **Three tardies equal one absence.**

Course Content and Grading:

Tentative Class Outline:

Each class will consist of warm-up to increase stamina, strength, and flexibility. We will then follow up with a series exercises to learn and develop movement vocabulary 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.

Topics and timelines may change based on needs of the class.

Unit 1: What Is Hip-Hop

- Finding your groove.
- Choreo Set 1.

Unit 2: Popping / Waving

- Body Control
- Precision
- Creativity
- Choreo Set 2

Unit 3: House

- Spatial Awareness
- Polyrhythm
- Choreo Set 3

Unit 4: Vogue/Waacking

- Syncopation
- Timing
- Choreo Set 4

Unit 5: Breaking

- Strength
- Stamina
- Choreo Set 5

GRADING:

Dance is different from many other fields in that the students work as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects such as history or math. Given that, below is an outline to the grading model used for this class.

Participation	60%
Writing/Critical Review	15%
Final	25%

Participation:

- 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
- Demonstrated commitment to reaching the Student Learning Objectives

Late Work/Missed Work: Submission of late work is subjected to **reduced or no credit**

Writing/Critical Review:

Students will provide critiques written at a college level of dance shows and concerts.

Final:

The final will consist of a choreographed piece created as a culmination to the movement styles learned throughout the course of the semester. Students will also participate in an improvisational jam.

Additional Information:

Dress Code—Please wear clothing to class that does not restrict movement: tight-fitting and restrictive clothing and anything too revealing is not acceptable. Please avoid the following footwear: ballet slippers, heels, socks, jazz shoes, loafers 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. 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

Tolerance:

In this course, students may be asked to listen to, view, and analyze racially charged works, and works that address adult and potentially offensive topics. We do not intend in any way to offend, nor do we as the School of Theatre & Dance and University of Montana necessarily share in the opinions of these authors and musicians, or their works that may offend. Nonetheless, because these materials speak to issues and

controversies in the history of dance that are essential to this course, no suitable substitutions are available for them, and none will be provided. By continuing with this course, you are agreeing to be held academically accountable for all required materials and activities, regardless of their offensive nature. Students who are unwilling either to hear or think critically about such materials are encouraged to drop this course at their discretion.

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.

From the EO/AA Office:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. 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/>.