

DANCE 1640 –Jazz I
INSTRUCTOR – Denise Posnak
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OFFICE HOURS – By appointment only

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance 1640 is a first level jazz dance course designed for the dance major that focuses on the fundamental characteristics of jazz dance as known in the twentieth and twenty-first century. Students will be exposed to several of the various styles and trends that have colored jazz dance throughout its history. They will also be exposed to improvisation, modern dance concepts and partnering work to further enhance their jazz experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Development of technical skill in jazz movement and performance. This encompasses strength, flexibility, balance, control, musicality, and confidence in dancing in front of an audience (peers and others).
2. Development of musicality and rhythmic skills through performing choreography that contains complex rhythmic changes.
3. Gaining a greater knowledge of jazz dance and its vernacular roots through performing historical and present day styles and discussing the history of jazz.
4. Improvement of spatial awareness through performing quick directional changes and movement that covers large amounts of space.
5. Development of a critical and inquisitive mind that views the body and its functions in ways that may be new and unconventional. Students will find numerous alternative routes to approach movement and be encouraged to use these paths to enhance their dancing.

CLASS POLICIES

APPROPRIATE DANCE ATTIRE includes dance pants, biker shorts, yoga pants, tightly fitting tops, leotards or tights. **NO BAGGY CLOTHING.** (Warm up sweatshirts or sweatpants can be worn for the first 15 minutes of class). **Jazz shoes are highly recommended.**

STUDIO RULES - no food, drink, gum or shoes on dance floor. Water bottles are permitted and recommended.

ATTENDANCE

Only **two absences** are allowed in the semester – this includes those due to illness or injury. Tardiness of 5- 10 minutes is considered 1/3 of an absence. After 2 absences, the students grade will be lowered by 1/3 in the plus/minus system (i.e. If the student has an A and misses 3 classes, he/she will receive an A-).

GRADING

50% Juried Exam

50% Demonstration of in-class concentration and work ethic; improvement of skill level; development of artistry.