

Modern Dance Technique Level I DANC 1650

Spring 2007
Sarasvati

Instructor: Bala Sarasvati

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Office: #307 Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 12:30-1:30 or by appt.

Class Meets: NDT and Studio 272

Credit Hours: 2 Grading System: A-F

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Through analysis, practice and reinvention, the lab is centered around movement theory, contemporary dance technique and performance training. Students will learn movement principles, skills, sequences and approaches to promote intellectual/technical/artistic development. The course will incorporate Laban/Bartenieff theories and explore unique ideas about motion and use of momentum. The applied study will address such topics as: anatomical and motor organization; efficient postural attitudes and patterns; dynamic alignment; effortful and musical phrasing; Shape; and Space Harmony.

Procedure

Movement sequences begin lying on the floor and progresses to center and across-the-floor combinations. Theoretical application will occur in process to help students achieve desired mastery of movement. The collective class and DANC level will inform pace and degree of complexity. Observation and analysis will be utilized to inform essential corrective measures and address individual movement issues. Improvisation and performance studies will support the more traditional technical regime.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Develop a kinesthetically sound movement foundation
- Gain theoretical perspective through application of movement principles
- Advance technical proficiency relevant to the contemporary dance genre
- Fulfill expressive potential, expand movement possibilities and improve overall performance clarity
- Nurture and enrich artistry through full-bodied investment

Methods

Cultivate body intelligence gained through anatomical, sensory and kinetic awareness. Fine-tune movement efficiency through release of inefficient habits, patterns and/or affectations. Investigate subtle physical processes, motional properties and space projection. Apply new strategies to develop multi-focused integration in complex movement phrases that involve multiple initiations, ever-changing directions and dynamic variation. Deepen the “inner dance” to enhance outer expression; draw inspiration from images, emotions and sensations to create motion, momentum and expression.

Student Approach

Fully invest, increasing the capability to be “present,” “centered,” and “focused” in the class. Allow time for solo practice outside of class to integrate aspects of the warm-up into the more complex movement combinations. Inquisitiveness, perseverance, physical stamina and aesthetic input are important characteristics necessary for successful achievement in the course - and one’s professional development. There is a plethora of possible interrelationships existing within the

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scope of dance training - (anatomical, fundamental, theoretical, technical, stylistic and artistic aspects) -awaiting discovery and investigation.

REQUIREMENTS

Readings and Assignments

Professor Handouts or online readings (TBA)

Video viewings 1) pre-jury and juried examinations 2) professional examples

Self Evaluation Papers The first paper is due Mon. Feb 26 and the second paper due Monday, April 30th. Guidelines will be provided. The paper should be two-three pages in length and word-processed. One point deduction each day that the paper is turned in late.

Attendance Policy *Attendance policy is posted on dance major bulletin board and published in *Dance Major Survival/Handbook*. The overall semester technique grade will be deducted after three absences. Each absence thereafter will cause a more significant grade deduction. One observation will count as one-half absence. Three times late to class will count as one absence.

Proper Attire Appropriately fitted leggings or dance pants. No “bell bottoms, shorts” or “gauchos” or loose fitting t-shirts. Pants must cover the kneecaps. Bring kneepads, Band-Aids, tape, water bottles and use as needed. Please see instructor if any questions on this matter.

Professional Attitude Full Participation is expected and will be considered in final grade. This includes: promptness, proper attire, individual readiness and preparation for each class, application of corrections and principles from class, a high level of engagement and self motivation, and participation in individual and group assignments.

Attendance to all Spring 2007 UGA Department of Dance performances

CORE concert dance company performance: Wed. – Fri. Feb 28- March 3, 2007

Ballroom Magic: Thurs. – Sat. March 29-31st

Attend as many other dance performances as possible. This is critical to your training.

GRADE CRITERIA

Two Self-Evaluation Papers (5% each of final grade)

Reflects guidelines

Content demonstrates knowledge of material

Quality of writing

In-Class Assessment (30% of final grade)

Application of theoretical concepts and instructional guidance

Improvements, progress, personal growth and accomplishment

DANC level and technical ability

Professional attitude and approach

Completion of assignments

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Two Juried Exams

Mid-Term Juried Exam: Mon. February 19 = 10% of final grade

End of Semester Exam: Mon, April 23 = 50% of final grade

During designated juried exam times, you will be observed, critiqued and graded by Department of Dance faculty member(s). Assessment guidelines for the juried movement exams will be provided prior to the jury. Each jury will reflect what is practiced in class, however regular rehearsal practice outside of class will better prepare students for the exam.

The final jury grade will be the averaged grade of two professors' jury grades.

GRADE SCALE

3.9 -4.0= A

Exceptional; extraordinary performance

3.7-3.8 = A-

Outstanding technical/performance demonstration and achievement with continued progress evident.

3.5-3.6 = B+

High technical/performance demonstration and achievement. Progress clearly evident.

3.3-3.5 =B / 3.0-3.2 = B –

Accomplished technical/performance demonstration and achievement; progress demonstrated.

2.8-2.9 = C+

Average technical/performance demonstration and achievement. Some basic elements need work.

2.6.-2.7 = C

Average technical/performance demonstration and achievement. Some progress noted. Basic elements need work.

2.3-2.5 = C- / 2.0-2.2 = D+

Technical/performance demonstration and achievement falls below acceptable level and standards of class. Absence of any visible progress is evident.

Academic honesty policy:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. A full version of A Culture of Honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa>

Please feel free to ask the professor for individual feedback regarding particular individual physical concerns, or for assistance with concepts, exercises and movement processes.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

The instructor reserves the right to request a medical withdrawal due to excessive absences caused by injury or illness.