Course Syllabus

“There was a famous Kabuki actor, who died about fifty years ago, who said, ‘I can teach you the gesture pattern that indicates “looking at the moon.” I can teach you the movement up to the tip of the finger which points to the sky. From the tip of your finger to the moon is your own responsibility.’” - Yoshi Oida The Invisible Actor

Course Information
DANC 1246 Modern Dance Tuesday/Thursday 7:10pm-8:30pm

Professor Contact Information
Staff Phone: 972-860-4122 bhcDance@dcccd.edu

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
None

Course Description
This course explores basic modern techniques. Emphasis is on technique development, and familiarity with contemporary dance meters and rhythms. This course is cross-listed as DANC 1345. The student may register for either DANC 1245 or DANC 1345, but may receive credit for only one of the two. (1 Lec., 2 Lab.)

In this class, students will study modern dance technique at a beginning level. Modern dance will be taught through the practice of technique, supplemented with attendance at dance performances and viewing of dance videos.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Execute both, physically and describe orally or in written form, the basic movement vocabulary of beginning modern dance.

2. Compare and recognize variables within the art form after exposure to various styles and techniques of modern dance through classroom participation and video viewing.

3. Value the art form, discipline, and dedication needed to excel in dance by participating in the structure of the technique, recognizing its demands of the physical body, and experiencing the execution of a complete movement phrase and be able to express this in written form.

Required Textbooks and Materials
None

Suggested Course Materials
Title: Fifty Contemporary Choreographers

Author: Martha Bremser
Lectures/Discussions/Learning Units/Lessons

Module 1 – Bartenieff: This module will provide the student with an overview of the Bartenieff Fundamentals.

Module 2 – Graham 1: This module will provide the student with an overview of contraction and spiral as established by Martha Graham.

Module 3 – Graham 2: This module will provide the student with an overview of high chest release and initiating movement from the center as established by Martha Graham.

Module 4 – Humphrey: This module will provide the student with an overview of fall and recovery as well as “dancing from the inside out” established by Doris Humphrey.

Module 5 – Limón: This module will provide the student with an overview of the successional movement employed by José Limón.

Module 6 – Taylor: This module will provide the student with an overview of modern dance technique employed by Paul Taylor.

Module 7 – Contemporary: This module will provide the student with an overview of technique employed by contemporary choreographers.

The modules are subject to change at the teacher’s discretion. Videos will be viewed during the semester.

Grading Policy

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
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<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Course Requirements, Assignments, Tests & Instructor Policies

Attendance 40%:

Attendance is mandatory. The student will receive 3 daily class points for every class attended. Please be on time, the student will be considered late if they arrive after the warm up has begun. If the student arrives after roll has been taken it is the student’s responsibility to remind the instructor they attended class. Failure to do so could result in an absence recorded and applied for that day. If the student arrives after the
warm up has begun they will receive a 1/2 point deduction from their daily class points. The student may not physically participate if they arrive more than 15 minutes late, and will receive a 1 point deduction from their daily class points. In order to receive the other 2 daily class points the student must sit and observe class. While observing class the student must take notes on the class (corrections, what was done etc...) and turn their notes in to receive their other 2 points. Classes may be made up, please speak to the instructor for various options. The student will be allowed to make up 4 excused absences. Written documentation that includes the day and time of the make up class and the make up instructor’s signature must be turned in to receive proper credit. All classes must be made up before the last week of classes.

**Participation 40%:**
Participation is graded on the student’s participation in the class, learning material given, effort, and preparedness for class (including proper attire), proper etiquette and their own personal growth. Each class has a value of 3 daily class points awarded by attending class and fulfilling the preceding requirements. The student must be present to receive points for that day. Points may be deducted if any of these requirements are unfulfilled. If the student arrives after the warm up has begun they will receive a 1/2 point deduction from their daily class points. The student may not physically participate if they arrive more than 15 minutes late and they will receive a 1 point deduction from your daily class points. In order to receive the other 2 daily class points the student must sit and observe class. While observing class the student must take notes on the class (corrections, what was done etc...) and turn their notes in to receive their other 2 points. Skills and Vocabulary: The student will be expected to learn set warm up exercises, basic modern movements, and have acquired an understanding of the dance vocabulary often used in class. The student will be tested verbally, physically, and/or on paper. This will count as the students participation points for any given day.

**Final 15%:**
Final Exam is a combination consisting of eight, eight counts of the student’s own choreography. If the student uses music counted in another way the counts must total 64 counts. The student will only be given credit for the counts consisting of movement. Credit will not be given for counts consisting of stillness. The choreography must be choreographed in the modern dance idiom. Each student will present their combination to the class on the final exam day. Time in class will be given to work on the final. Students may choose to partner with another student; in this case they must present sixteen counts of eight. Other final exam assignments will be determined by the teacher, if needed.

**Paper 5%:**
Papers written on a college level or higher dance performance must be typed, double-spaced, follow the MLA style of writing and be accompanied by the ticket or the program from the performance. The student must write on the first piece, last piece and at least two other pieces in the performance. Papers written on a performance may be more, but no less than three pages long. When writing about a particular piece the title, choreographer and composer should be included.

Please write on how the modern dance presented in the concert is considered an art form. Apply your knowledge acquired in class to the performance by giving examples from both class and the performance. Form an opinion about the performance and support this opinion with examples. Articulate your knowledge of modern technique and styles by giving examples from the performance. Pay close attention to your thought process and organizational skills.

Suggestions for organizing your thoughts:

**Choreography:** Was the piece dark, light, comedic...? What is the choreographer trying to say (movement only, relationships, abstract ideas, meaning)? Was he/she successful in their communication? What made it successful or not? What was the most notable aspect (movement, technique, visual, musical)?

**Performance:** How does the technique (ballet or modern) serve the work? What was the attitude of the dancers in the work (internal, external, slap-stick, etc.)? Did all of the dancers work together?

**Design Elements:** Comment on the lights, costumes, sets or props. Not just what they looked like, but how were they used to serve the choreographic idea? Did they enhance or take away from the work?
**Music/Sound**: What kind of music/sound was used and comment on its use in the work? Did it enhance or detract from the choreographic intent? Were they dancing to the music, or was it used to provide an environment?

*Make sure to use written visual examples to back up your writing/opinion and use a thesaurus.*

Any other papers assigned should follow the same terms as the performance paper. If the assigned paper is a research paper it must be properly documented when using quotes. The paper must be written in the student’s own words.

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit may be received by attending dance performances. The student may receive 3 points by just turning in a ticket and program or 6 if accompanied by a paper (which must follow the paper outlines above). The credit will be added to the final total of points accrued for the course at the end of the semester, not a specific category.

**General Class Etiquette and Attire**
All students are expected to conduct themselves professionally.
A courteous and respectful attitude towards instructor, musician and classmates must be shown at all times.
Minimum jewelry
Hair away from face
No chewing gum
Closed liquid containers (water only)
No sitting down during class, if you do you may not participate in the rest of class.
No talking while dancing or during demonstrations of exercise.
No leaving the studio without teacher approval.
You are required to wear dance or work out clothes. Loose fitting street clothes are not appropriate.
Acceptable attire: leotards, jazz pants/capris, yoga pants/capris, sweat pants, tight fitting T-shirts or tank tops, leggings, sweat shirts may be worn for warm up.
Do not correct fellow students.
When going across the floor or dancing in groups, always dance with the same group.
Points may be deducted from your daily grade for inappropriate attire or etiquette.
Arrive on time to class, if 15 minutes late find a place to sit and take notes.

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**Field Trip Policies**
There are no scheduled group field trips for this class. All dance concerts attended by the student are attended on their own time. Concerts attended are chosen by the student.

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*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*

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Please be aware that the instructor will use touch as a teaching tool.
There will also be physical contact with fellow classmates.
If for any reason this is an uncomfortable situation please feel free to speak directly to the instructor.

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PART II

DROP/WITHDRAWAL POLICY: Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which YOU must initiate; the instructor cannot do it for you. You may do this in Admissions or Counseling. If you stop attending class and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, which can result in an “F.” Students sometimes drop courses when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with the instructor if you feel the need to withdraw.

INTERNAL TRANSFER: A credit student may transfer to non-credit status after the refund period and on or before the final drop date of the semester. No student will be permitted to transfer after that date. Please consult with your instructor if you wish to utilize this transfer process.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: A student shall be excused from attending classes, or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. A “religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination. Further information is available at http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=3BBA5600-AB9B-55C7-1A1C6ED6B09A1FD7 under Sub Chapter A, General Provisions §4.4 (Texas Education Code 51.911).

ADA STATEMENT: Any student who feels that he/she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment, disability, or handicap, please contact Special Services Office in Room S124 or at 972-860-4847. Information can be found online at http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/studentsvcs/special-services/.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of The Dallas County Community College District. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities. Disciplinary regulations at the college are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct. Students should be aware of disciplinary actions for all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism and collusion. The entire Student Code of Conduct (rev. 6/29/12) is online at https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm?loc=2 and scroll down to Responsibility (#3), for detailed information.

FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT: Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Please note: If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes before the certification date. You also must attend or participate after the drop date in order not to be marked as non-attending in the event that you fail the course. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid. By Texas law, students may drop only six classes during their undergraduate career.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DROPPED COURSES: Section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code applies to students who enroll in a Texas public institution of higher education for the first time in fall 2007 or later. This includes dual credit and Early College High School students.
Based on this law, DCCCD or any other Texas public institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. All courses dropped after the official drop and add period for the course are included in the six-course limit, including courses dropped at another Texas public institution of higher education, unless it qualifies as an exception. Contact your college’s counseling/advising office for further details related to exceptions.

Policies and procedures for implementation of this law will be developed and published as soon as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board finalizes its rules associated with this statute. Students affected by this law who plan to attend another institution of higher education should become familiar with the institution’s policies on dropping courses.

All DCCCD websites are subject to change. Please go to http://www.dcccd.edu/ for further information.