

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE GUIDE

COURSE DEPARTMENT AND NUMBER: DANC 1740

TITLE: Modern Dance I

CREDIT HOURS: 1

CONTACT HOURS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION: DANC 1740 introduces elementary modern dance technique and vocabulary. Techniques basic to this dance form plus somatic and motional properties as they relate to dance are emphasized. Special emphasis is placed on dynamic alignment, sensing and activating weight in the body, body awareness, increasing the student's ease and range of motion, balance, coordination and personal expression. Movement explorations take place on the floor, standing, and in sequenced movements through space.

PREREQUISITES: None

FREQUENCY OF OFFERING: Fall and Spring

REQUIRED TEXT: None

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: The student shall be responsible for purchasing and wearing proper dance attire including leotard and tights or unitard for women, Tshirt and tights for men. Tight fitting camisole or tank tops (with sports bra if needed), and tight fitting leggings or yoga pants are acceptable. No shoes are needed. Chinese kneepads and approved sports tape are allowed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To demonstrate mastery of elementary technical skills in modern dance;**
- 2. To utilize elementary modern dance vocabulary; and**
- 3. To demonstrate elementary modern dance movement on the floor, standing, and in sequenced movements through space.**

MINIMAL PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Full and regular participation in technique classes according to evaluation criteria below.**
- 2. Completion of 1-2 juried technique exams with subsequent written self-reflection.**

3. Other projects at the discretion of the instructor including, but not limited to, movement assignments, concert attendance and written critical analyses.

POLICIES:

I. Attendance and Participation:

1. Absences: You are allowed 2 absences (excused or unexcused). Each additional absence will lower your grade by another 1/3 (for example, from an A- to a B+, or from a B to a B-). There are no excused absences except for eligible school functions.
2. Tardies: Students are expected to be on time and to stay for the duration of the class. Three tardies and/or early departures constitute one absence. If you arrive ten minutes after the technique class has begun, you are expected to observe the remainder of the class. *You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy.*
3. Observations: When injured or ill, but not contagious, you may sit, watch a technique class and record observations to hand in at the end of class period and still be counted present. *However, this will not be counted as participation.* Use these days wisely and do not abuse the privilege.
4. Participation: Students must dance in 24 out of 30 technique classes to get credit for the course. Sitting and watching a class does not count as participation. If you have 7 or more combined absences/observations, you cannot receive credit for the course. *Students who do not meet the participation requirement for any reason will need to repeat the course.*
5. Illness / Injury: Serious illnesses and injuries will be handled on an individual basis. In such cases, it is the *student's responsibility* to contact the instructor in order to make appropriate arrangements.
6. Make-ups: Due to the process-centered and experiential nature of technique class, make-up work is not feasible. One cannot "make-up" an experience.
7. Extra-Credit: This course does not offer extra credit assignments.

NOTE: Excessive absences are reported to the Registrar and to the various agencies administering financial aid. These absences can result in disruption or loss of financial support unless work is completed to the instructor's satisfaction.

II. Disability

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Darton College will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by persons with disabilities. Students must self-disclose their disability to the Office of Disability Services before academic accommodations can be implemented.

III. Attire:

Proper dance attire including leotard and tights or unitard for women, Tshirt and tights for men. Tight fitting camisole or tank tops (with sports bra if needed), and tight fitting leggings or yoga pants are acceptable. No shoes are needed. Chinese kneepads and approved sports tape are allowed.

Hair should be securely fastened in a bun, twist, braid, or other non-floppy manner that allows you to lie flat on your back without obstruction. Excessive or bulky headdresses and jewelry are not allowed.

IV. Class Conduct:

1. Appropriate dance class etiquette:

Be on time, ready to dance. Remove your shoes immediately upon entering the studio. Please be respectful of your fellow classmates, the instructor, and the art by being attentive and following studio etiquette at all times during class. You are encouraged to ask relevant questions during class, but excessive chatting, socializing, or other distracting behavior will not be tolerated. Class time needs to be reserved for refining and improving our craft and our bodies as artistic instruments.

2. For your own safety and enjoyment of this class, no eating or gum-chewing is allowed in the studio. *It is a good idea to bring a plastic water bottle.*

3. Please turn off or silence all cellular phones and other electronic devices. The production of any audible alert by these devices when a class is in session is considered disruptive classroom behavior. The instructor may take appropriate actions to curb such disruption in accordance with the College's Policies of Disruptive and Obstructive Behavior under Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.

V. Methods and Criteria for Evaluation

1. The fundamental and ongoing assignments of technique class are to:

- Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components;**
- Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that are provided in class;**
- Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice;**

- Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so;
- Reflect in writing as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the technique evaluation criteria;
- Your achievement in mastering the technique evaluation criteria to the degree appropriate for this course will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade.

2. **Technique Evaluation Criteria:**

Specifically, and to the degree appropriate for the elementary level of modern dance training, you will be evaluated according to your improvement and ability to:

- Maintain basic alignment while standing and in motion;
- Increase and apply strength and stamina;
- Increase and apply flexibility/range of joint motion;
- Grasp and retain the sequence of exercises and combinations;
- Grasp and retain the nuances of rhythm/phrasing of exercises and combinations;
- Grasp and retain the qualitative dimensions of exercises/combinations, such as musicality, dynamic range, and expressiveness;
- Maintain whole-body and body part clarity of spatial orientation in movement;
- Move in and out of the floor with strength and ease;
- Move quickly from learning to performing; apply technique w/ sense of "self"
- Implement technical/artistic corrections consistently & in all applicable contexts;

3. **Your attendance record and your record in turning in assignments will be additional factors in calculating your final letter grade.**

Grading scale:

- 90-100 - A
- 80-90 - B
- 70-79 - C
- 60-69 - D
- Below 60 - F

Congratulations on your completion of reading this comprehensive course guide, which will certainly give you a better chance to succeed in this course. Please log into **MyDC** and send an email message to your instructor to acknowledge that you have read the complete document and understand the objectives, requirements, and policies of this course.