



## DANC 1075

**Division:** Fine Arts

**Department:** Dance

**Course:** DANC 1075

**Title:** Introduction to Dance

**Catalog Description:**

This course is an overview of the field of dance focusing on its origins, historical development and cultural characteristics of the various styles. Content includes the different ways in which world cultures are expressed through dance and movement. Students will also explore dance as an artistic expression in America and the importance of dance to world societies.

**General Education Requirements:** Fine Arts

**Semesters Offered:** Fall, Spring

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** None

**Justification:**

This course will provide students with a rudimentary understanding of the elements of dance. Students will learn the importance of dance around the world, its development from ancient to modern times and be able to identify the many genres and styles of dance. Dance as part of religion, ritual, human communication and theatrical events will be explored. It fills a fine arts general education requirement and is taught at most four-year universities.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to write a comprehensive definition of dance; trace the origins of dance; identify the cultural significance of dance as a function of ritual, religion, society and art; contrast ethnic dance and presentational dance; identify various styles and their characteristics; trace the historical development; define and explain dance theories as they relate to styles of dance; list major contributors to the field and identify their contributions.

**Content:**

Students will learn to define dance and its function through examination of historical trends and influences in American and world-wide society. The characteristics of dance, its development from functional to presentational, the cultural significance of dance as ritual, religion, society and art will be discussed. Dance

theories as they relate to the many styles of dance and the major contributors to the field will also be studied.

### **General Education Outcomes:**

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

During this course, the origins and development of dance will be examined. Students will learn to define dance and its function through examination of historical and cultural trends and influences in American and world-wide society. The characteristics of dance, its development from functional to presentational, the cultural significance of dance as ritual, religion, society and art will be discussed.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students will gain sensitivity and appreciation for great works of dance through viewing and responding to videotaped performances. An understanding of the rich tradition, history and basic mechanics of dance promotes greater appreciation for movement from any culture, age, and genre.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

This is an experiential course; attendance and complete participation are necessary (30%). Written assignments and oral presentations will provide evidence of student understanding of the concepts and ability to articulately communicate research and learning (40%). The midterm test and final exam will test theoretical knowledge (30%). Percentages are approximate.

### **Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

*The Art of Dance, Doris Ambrose, current edition.*

**Optimum Class Size:** 12

**Maximum Class Size:** 30

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

---

’ ’

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Dance Department:

---

Patricia Meredith, MFA, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

---

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

---

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

---

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)