



DANC 1200

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Dance

Course: DANC 1200

Title: Modern Dance I

Catalog Description:

This course will introduce students to the basic technique, fundamental principles and context of modern dance. Movement is presented by means of demonstration, description and exploration. Emphasis will be on alignment, coordination, strength and muscular control.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 1; Lecture: 1; Lab: 2

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

Modern Dance is essential to well-rounded dancers today, as they are expected to be well versed in all types of western theatrical dance. Technique, historical context and improvisation are introduced, giving individual dancers the tools to produce interesting and personal movement. The analysis of physical movement and structure along with modern dance vocabulary and quick assimilation of dance movement develops mental and physical dexterity. This course is required for all Dance Majors, and fills an elective credit for physical education at four-year universities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: demonstrate proper Modern Dance technique with the ability to analyze movement using anatomical principles; demonstrate a knowledge of the history of Modern Dance and its contribution to the world of dance; know and understand the elements and vocabulary of dance and improvise using these elements; show increased ability in areas of flexibility, strength, musicality, coordination and endurance; and gain an appreciation of Modern Dance as an art form.

Content:

Students will learn several movement phrases each class period that require physical strength, flexibility, and artistic sensitivity. They will be led through improvisations using the elements of dance, and discuss the importance and potential of each. Basic anatomy and physiology will be discussed to analyze movement and develop solutions to balance and other dance issues. Rhythm and musicality using classical and contemporary music will be examined. Through observation and written critique, students will practice responding articulately to the artistry of Modern Dance performances. To supplement lectures and videotaped productions, students will research and present information on the major contributors to the art.

General Education Outcomes:

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

Students will learn the cultural and historical context in which Modern Dance began and gained popularity. By studying this history, they will see how social issues and historical events can impact dance, and how dance can be a means of creating change in the world.

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

Students will have the opportunity to respond to both video taped performances, the dancing of their peers in class, and a live performance of the Snow Dance Ensemble. Response will come in the form of a written critique and discussion.

10) Apply personal-fitness and wellness-management principles to lifestyle choices.

The very nature of dance increases physical fitness in many ways: strength, flexibility, endurance and coordination. Through discussion of correct movement principles and how they apply to dance and all types of movement, students have the knowledge to exercise safely in all physical endeavors.

Key Performance Indicators:

As this is an experiential course, attendance and complete participation are necessary (40%). The performance critique paper (15%) and historical presentation (15%) will show the students ability to articulately present research and logically express a viewpoint. The midterm test on vocabulary used each day in class (10%) and the final exam, testing technical improvement, improvisational skills and theoretical knowledge (20%) will provide further evidence of learning.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

No text required. Supplies: A leotard, form-fitting shirt and dance pants that will allow for movement are required. No shoes will be needed.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 25

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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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)