



DANC 2350

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Dance

Course: DANC 2350

Title: Teaching Methods - Children's Dance

Catalog Description:

The course will explore the theoretical basis for children's dance and provide the opportunity in class and off-campus for the student to create, test and experience creative movement lessons for pre-kindergarden through 6th grade children. This class is designed for dance majors and related curricula but open to all students interested in working with children.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 2; Lab: 2

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Justification:

Children are very impressionable so it is important for them to learn the basics of dance from a teacher who is trained in correct dance technique. Teaching dance to children is a popular way to earn a living and often done so by untrained instructors. These children then grow up and become dance teachers themselves. This class will attempt to break this chain by training potential teachers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements of dance: time, space and energy. They will show an understanding of age-group capabilities: physical, mental and social. They will have developed enough self-confidence to remain open and flexible in the teaching situation. They will develop an ability to judge the teaching situation and adjust expectations and activities to meet the needs of the children. Students will create and analyze lesson plans based on imagery in relation to the elements of dance and use movement to strengthen and support understanding of other areas of study.

Content:

This course will consist of in-depth exploration of age group capabilities, interests and developmental benchmarks for children ages two to twelve. Students will learn how to develop lesson plans appropriate to each age group based on classroom curriculum, founded on correct movement theory and principles. The elements of dance will be used to strengthen understanding by utilizing a child's kinesthetic intelligence. To encourage creativity and as a springboard for movement ideas, children's literature will be studied.

General Education Outcomes:

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3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will be required to teach children ages two to twelve and must communicate with them effectively, remaining open to student needs with the ability to remain flexible and change plans as dictated by the needs of the children. They will also be creating and teaching lesson plans to their peers, again communicating many different concepts and theories using a variety of methods.

Key Performance Indicators:

This is an experiential course; attendance and complete participation are necessary (30%). Lesson plans, assignments and discussion will provide evidence of student understanding of the concepts and ability to articulately communicate learning (40%). The midterm test and final project will test theoretical knowledge as well as practical application (30%). Percentages are approximate.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

First Steps in Teaching Creative Dance to Children, by Mary Joyce, current edition.

Optimum Class Size: 10

Maximum Class Size: 20

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)