

## **SYLLABUS**

### **DANC 186 – Modern Dance 1**

Pre-requisite(s): None

### **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Instructor Information:**

Renée Brozic Barger

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-9:15

HVPA 210B

Email: [rbarger@howardcc.edu](mailto:rbarger@howardcc.edu)

Mailbox: HVPA 220

410.772.4089

### **Course Goals:**

The student will be able to:

### **Outcomes:**

1. Perform basic Modern Dance skills with effective technique and efficient body alignment according to individual anatomical structure;
2. Identify basic Modern Dance skills and terminology;
3. Demonstrate appropriate studio etiquette;
4. Actively participate in movement improvisation and group activities;
5. Demonstrate sensitivity to tempo, rhythm, and dynamics of musical accompaniment;
6. Utilize kinesthetic perception in order to self-evaluate and self-correct;
7. Evaluate their growth in agility, balance, strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination, and overall movement efficiency;
8. Demonstrate self-awareness and awareness of others when performing and engaging in group activities;
9. Demonstrate effective oral, written and critical thinking skills as they apply to Modern Dance technique and appreciation;
10. Identify criteria for making aesthetic judgments about dance;
11. Discuss dance as a means to a healthy life style;
12. Discuss Modern Dance as a vehicle for expressing cultural, historical, political or social issues.

### **Objectives:**

1. Elements of Modern Dance terminology and technique: floor work, standing, center combinations and locomotor sequences
2. Elements of movement: space, time, energy
3. Studio etiquette
4. Creative and improvisational experiences within the parameters of Modern Dance
5. Cultural/historical roots of Modern Dance technique and dance aesthetics

## **Rationale:**

This course provides a basis for students to understand and develop a sense of body awareness and alignment, and helps students release habitual and tension-producing patterns. Through active participation, students explore fundamental movement principles and modern dance techniques. Structured improvisation and choreography allow the students to manipulate abstract ideas, and develop their creativity. Incorporated into this course are the study of anatomy and the study of modern dance history.

Dance is not only a craft, but also an art form that provides a valid and arresting statement of significant human experience. The student is encouraged to have a broad interest in and familiarity with all the arts, and to acquire the widest possible knowledge of the relationship between dance and other intellectual and creative activities. It is hoped that the student will develop a more disciplined mind and body; understand more clearly the artist within each of us; realize that through physical experience the joy of integrating the body, mind and spirit in the art of dance; and develop strength, flexibility and control.

## **Evaluation:**

- Grading:
  - Criteria for evaluation is mastery of major topics as demonstrated through:
    - Daily active participation 60%
    - Practicum examinations 25%
    - Written assignment(s)/examination(s) 15%
- Completion of assignment(s) and practicum/final examination(s)
  - MidTerm Exam
  - Final Exam
  - Written response Paper on Professional Concert

Grading is based upon the total accumulation of points 0-1000.

**Daily Active Participation / Attendance** will be evaluated at 60% (600 points) of your total grade.

Since emphasis is placed on Daily Active Participation, it is imperative that the student come to class on time and prepared by having practiced material learned in class. A point system will be used for attendance. Students will be evaluated on participation in daily discussion and participation.

**\*\*Note, just showing up for class does not mean that the student will necessarily be awarded all Daily Active Participation points. The student must be prepared, participate fully, and be engaged in the material.\*\***

*Students arriving late (once warm-up begins) or sitting out and observing class will be eligible for only half-participation.*

**\*\*Please note that the Attendance / Daily Active Participation grade of 600 points is applied toward the student's total grade of 1000 points.**

**Written assignments** will be evaluated at 15% (150 points) of your total grade. Written assignments will include:

- (100) Attendance and Response Paper on Professional Concert
- (50) Vocabulary Quiz

\*\*Response papers must be turned in no later than two weeks after the date of the event. Response Papers must be at least 2 pages, and no more than 4 pages. The program and ticket stub must be attached to the paper. Guidelines for writing Response Papers will be distributed under separate cover.

\*\*All written work must conform to this format:

- Typewritten
- 1-inch page margins
- 12 point Ariel Font

**Practicum Assignments** will be evaluated at 15% (150 points) of your total grade. Practicum assignments will include:

- (100) Midterm Evaluation
- (150) Final Evaluation

### **Procedures:**

The student is responsible for arriving to class dresses in appropriate dance clothes, with the hair fastened securely of his or her face. Modern Classes: Black leotard and black tights (women.) Black dance tank or tee, dance belt, black men's tights (men). Optional: close fitting long sleeve top (black preferred), short socks. No shoes are accepted, modern dance is done in bare feet. Hair is worn securely fastened off of the face, no bangs. Long hair should be secured so that it does not get in one's face or pose a threat to others. No jewelry.

The student is responsible for observing proper studio etiquette while in class.

### **Dates to note:**

Midterm: Thursday, Oct 9, 2008.

Paper Due: Monday, November 24, 2008.

Final: Wednesday, Dec 3, 2008.

### **Special Note:**

*Teaching involves "hands on" corrections and guidance. This is a way of informing your body through tactile cues, and has been integral to dances classes throughout the ages. Areas that respond especially well to tactile guidance are the legs, arms, head and neck, and torso (back, ribs, and shoulders.) However, tactile cues can vary from student to student. If you are not comfortable with this type of "hands-on" training, please speak with your teacher privately.*

## COURSE OUTLINE

DANC-186

Modern Dance I

2 Semester Hours

### HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### Description

An introduction to the basic principles of modern dance. Study of level change, floor work, weight shift, dynamic alignment, and expression. Introduction to modern dance theories and history. (3 hours weekly)

#### Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate at a beginning level an understanding of modern dance vocabulary by participating in class discussions and passing written assignments.
2. Satisfactorily pass practicum examinations demonstrating technical ability in performance of movement sequences.
3. Identify and discuss music for modern dance.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of rhythmic patterns and phrasing.
5. Explain the origin and a brief history of modern dance.
6. Communicate in a written critical analysis a dance concert.
7. Demonstrate an appreciation for modern dance as an art form.

#### Major Topics

- I. Modern dance as a fine art form with cultural and personal implications
- II. Brief history of modern dance
- III. Modern dance theory
- IV. Music for modern dance
- V. Warm-up and center exercises as follows:

Warm-up exercises including:

1. Exercises utilizing inward and outward rotation
2. Isolations of body parts
3. Sequencing exercises which focus on coordination of body parts
4. Stretches and exercises designed to develop muscular control
5. Exercises designed to encourage dynamic alignment through proper support (breath, rotational, etc.)
6. Exercises performed sitting or lying on the floor as well as standing

Center floor work including:

1. Study of movement suspension
2. Introduction to falls
3. Exercises focusing on shift of weight and change of level
4. Combinations of movements that travel across the space, as well as combinations that remain in one place
5. Exercises focusing on breath and rotational support of movement phrasing
6. Exercises focusing on rhythmic patterning
7. Exercises focusing on dynamic alignment
8. Movement sequences designed to balance off the vertical axis

9. Movement sequences designed to encourage personal expressiveness and provide opportunities for individual choice-making

#### Course Requirements

The basic course content will be presented in a dance class technique format with emphasis on active class participation and learning dance combinations, which will culminate in a dance to be performed in the spring dance showcase. The students will attend one dance performance during the semester and submit a critique. The student will be additionally evaluated through an exam involving modern dance history and vocabulary.

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include:

Criteria for evaluation is mastery of major topics as demonstrated through:

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Class participation                    | 60% (Active daily participation) |
| Practical Examinations                 | 20%                              |
| Critique on Professional Dance Concert | 20%                              |
| Total                                  | 100%                             |

#### Other Course Information

The course will be used to fulfill the requirements for Dance majors and may be used as a Fine Arts elective, Humanities elective, Arts and Science elective or a dance requirement for Theater (Performance) majors. Dance majors must take Movement Integration (DANC-101) concurrently with this course.