

Howard Community College Dance 104

Basic Course Information

- A. Semester : Fall 2008
- B. Instructor: Esperonto Bean
- C. Office Info: HVPA 115
luvofhiphop@hotmail.com
- D. Office Hours: 30 mins. Before and after class

Course Description: One hour and 45 minutes per week. Introduces the technique of and cultural influences on Hip-Hop and Funk dance styles. Students will practice Hip-Hop and Funk technique and explore the cultural influences of music, graffiti, text and attire on this dance form.

Course Goals- Upon completion of the course the student will be able to perform these course objectives:

1. Perform basic hip-hop dance skills with effective technique;
2. Participate in creative and improvisation group activities;
3. Apply appropriate terminology in written and oral communication;
4. Evaluate their growth in agility, balance, strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination, and movement efficiency;
5. Identify appropriate criteria for making aesthetic judgments about dance;
6. Discuss the creative process and contributions of various pioneers and contemporary Hip-Hop artist
7. Identify the differences between the various hip-hop styles;
8. Demonstrate awareness to tempo and rhythm of musical accompaniment;
9. Demonstrate self-awareness and of others when performing and engaging in group activities;
10. Demonstrate effective oral, written and critical thinking skills as they apply to dance technique and appreciation;
11. Discuss dance as a means to a healthy lifestyle;
12. Discuss dance as a vehicle for expressing cultural, historical, political or social issues.

Major Topics- Upon completion of the course the student will have an understanding of these major topics:

1. Dance and wellness
2. Improvisations techniques
3. Fundamentals of dance performance
4. Elements of movement (space, time, energy)
5. Cultural, historical, and technological influences

6. Dance aesthetics: defining dance, dance as an art form, aesthetics as a process and product of culture

Rationale

Dance has long been used as a means of praise, worship, exercise, and social status. For hundreds of years people have used movement to express a wide range of feelings. Throughout history, beginning with tribal dance, the art has taken many different paths. We have gone from the rigid genre of ballet to the objectivity of modern to the complex rhythms of tap. Out of a combination of these, we have evolved a new form: Hip-Hop. People are drawn to Hip-Hop for many reasons including exercise and camaraderie. But mainly because of one basic idea; that it's fun. There are no strict rules on body type, cultural background, money, age or environment. It is an art form that all can enjoy no matter who you are.

This class will explore the vast world of Hip-Hop. It has influenced our society in many ways including music, clothes, technology, and constitutional freedom. In the beginning, it was a small handful of people sharing their experiences through movement and music. It has been quiet and controversial, and it has emerged into a phenomenon that has solidified itself as an art, even though in the big scheme of dance Hip-Hop is young and has gone through a significant amount of development in a short period of time.

The class format will begin by preparing your body with a center warm-up important for preparing the mind and the body. Each movement combination is designed to develop your coordination, strength, flexibility, endurance, and musicality, and it is suggested that you practice outside of the class at least 2-3 hours per week to improve upon these skills and increase your ability to perform more complex movement patterns and sequences. Your creative thinking skills will also be challenged as you learn strategies for crafting your own "movement voice"-a way of expressing your individuality. I hope that you enjoy your studio experience as we move forward into the semester, learning from one another, and experiencing the many joys of learning through the arts.

Evaluation

- A. Class Participation and Attendance (50%)

Your regular, timely attendance and active participation is necessary for you to complete the course successfully. Any student arriving ten minutes or more late will not be allowed to participate. It is also imperative that you are prepared for each class which includes being dressed in your workout attire and completing all required assignments by their due dates. All incomplete and late assignments will result in your receiving a 10-point deduction per calendar day, and any two late arrivals will equal one absence.

The attendance scale reflects 25% of your total grade, and any students with five or more absences will fail the course- no exceptions!

1 absence= "A" 2 absences= "B" 3 absences="C" 4 absences="D"

B. Assignments (50%)

The assignments below are designed to provide you with a forum to express your thoughts and demonstrate your ability to use creative and critical thinking skills. I strongly suggest that you review these major topic assignments at the beginning and end of each week to assure that you complete each assignment by the assigned due date. All late assignments will receive a 10-point deduction per calendar day. All assignments are worth 0-100 points

Assignment 1- What is Hip-Hop – September 15

Complete a rap or spoken word about what hip-hop is to you. **Typed only!**

Assignment 2- Written Exam- October 13

Remembering important dates, places and pioneers in hip-hop culture

Assignment 3- Improvisation- November 10

Group/Individual Perform your own freestyle moves no longer than 1min 30secs

Assignment 4- Final Exam- December 1

You will perform to choreographed hip-hop pieces

C. Make-up Assignment Requirements

1. You are allowed to make up one required assignment **except the final exam.**
2. Complete a 2 page typed double space research paper from the options below:

Option #1: Select the lifestyle of an artist and explain their personal style as it is expressed through their lyrics and videos.

Option#2: Discuss Hip-Hop as a vehicle for creating a positive social-economical change within your community.

Option#3: Student's proposed project (must be approved 2 weeks prior to the due date)

Course Procedures

1. All technology (cell phones) must be disengaged during class unless on call for emergency situations, and excessive dialogue or leaving the classroom is unacceptable and will reflect a lower final grade due to lack of attentiveness and participation in the class.
2. Review the college policy concerning academic honesty, student attendance and writing policy provided in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.
3. Classes affected by late starts or early closings will be held if there are more than 30 minutes of scheduled class time either after the late start or before the early closing. If there are 30 minutes or less of class time, the class is considered cancelled.
4. Students may wear dance or exercise attire with jazz shoes or sneakers; hair should be pulled away from the face, and all dancers should remove all excessive jewelry to prevent injuries while dancing. Eating and drinking anything other than water is unacceptable behavior in a professional dance environment.