

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 which travel across the space, as well as combination which 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

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

- Grading: Criteria for evaluation is mastery of major topics as demonstrated through:
 - Daily active participation 70%
 - Practicum examinations 15%
 - Written assignment(s)/examination(s) 15%
- Completion of assignment(s) and practicum/final examination(s)
- Attendance at an area performance

Writing: May include a paper or papers assigned by the individual faculty member.

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.