Modern Dance I

Course Description

Introduction to the fundamentals of Modern Dance as an art form with an emphasis on a variety of techniques, musicality and performance.

Learning Objectives

- Students will recall the principles of a variety of modern dance techniques.
- Students will demonstrate a variety of styles and technique within modern dance.
- Students will increase and strengthen body alignment, technique and flexibility.
- Students will illustrate musicality and fluidity while performing modern dance.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in basic concepts of modern dance.
- Students will analyze modern dance as an art form.

List of Supplies

CLASS ATTIRE:
Women—any solid color leotard or tank, with black tights or form fitting leggings and barefoot or socks.
Men—form fitted shirt, black tights or form fitting pants/long shorts and barefoot or socks.

Please wear hair secure and away from the face.

The instructor reserves the right to determine if any attire is inappropriate for class. NO BAGGY OUTFITS, SHORT SHORTS, OR STREET SHOES PLEASE.

Course Policies

ECOMMUNICATION POLICY

- The best way to contact me is via email to the information provided above.
- I will respond to email within 24 hours except on weekends. Should you send me an email Friday, I may not respond until Monday morning.
- If you want an individual appointment, please email me and we can schedule an office visit.

GRADE POLICY

900-1000 Pts.  A
800-899 Pts.  B
700-799 Pts.  C
600-699 Pts.  D
Below 600 Pts.  F

- ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 400 points (Attitude and effort contribute largely and is assessed during each class)
- 2 - EVALUATIONS – 150 points each (Presentation of combinations as well as a written section comprised of vocabulary and history)
- WRITTEN PAPER – 100 points (Based on at least one live dance performance)
• ISLAND DANCE DEMO – 200 points

Evaluation 1: Skills/Combination Test Tuesday/Thursday, March 3 & 5
Evaluation 2: Skills/Combination Test Thursday, April 16
Written Paper: Observation of Live Performance Within 7 Days of Observing Performance
Final Exam: Island Dance Demo, Thur April 23 5:30 Dancer Call, 7:30pm @ WILSON THEATER, TAMUCC
Dress Rehearsal: Wed April 22 5:30 Dancer Call, 6:00 pm @ WILSON THEATER

WRITTEN PAPER
The student is required to write one paper during the semester based on one evening’s observation of live dance. Opportunities to view include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – Harbor Playhouse. Sleeping Beauty – Corpus Christi Ballet. The paper is due within one week after the concert is observed; assignment turned in to Blackboard. Rubric is available in the submission folder – read this PRIOR to viewing the concert!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Harbor Playhouse Feb 28 – Apr 5
Sleeping Beauty Corpus Christi Ballet April 25 & 26

ATTENDANCE
Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with the instructor immediately to make such an exception viable BEFORE your absence.

If you are unable to participate fully in the class, a written observation is acceptable. You may use this substitution for participating in the class two times per semester.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS:
Late work and make-up exams for this course are permitted at the discretion of the instructor.

EXTRA CREDIT:
Occasionally extra credit is given and will be offered to the entire class when appropriate.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE:
Cell phones and other electronic device usage are not permitted during class and should be turned off.

SAFETY:
Any physical activity requires some risk. Please be aware of others while dancing. If a student has a pre-existing condition, let the instructor know at the beginning of the class. If an injury occurs during class, please let the instructor know IMMEDIATELY! Check the student handbook regarding safety policies and procedures of the department.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in withdrawal from the course.
DROPPING A CLASS:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is April 10th, 2020.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

PROPER DANCE CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:
   i. Work hard to do your best.
   ii. Help maintain a friendly atmosphere of discipline.
   iii. Corrections are given verbally and physically to the group and individuals. Please listen to all corrections.
   iv. Any corrections given verbally or physically may involve physical contact with the student. If this makes you uncomfortable, please speak with the instructor.
   v. Ask questions!
   vi. Be willing to think for yourself. Don’t necessarily follow in another’s footsteps.
   vii. No gum in the class.
   viii. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
PERSONAL COUNSELING
Short-term Counseling Services

University Counseling Center staff provide short-term individual counseling and psychiatric services to help students address personal problems that interfere with meeting the demands of college life and their academic success. Counselors can work with you to aide you in increasing self-awareness, improving self-confidence and acceptance, enhancing your ability to cope during changes and challenges, improving your decision making and communication abilities, and teaching you strategies to replace hurtful or self-defeating thoughts, feelings, and actions with healthy, adaptive, alternatives. Services are available to TAMUCC students who are currently enrolled and whose needs match our services. Walk-ins are welcome 8am to 5pm.

Driftwood Bldg. #107; 361-825-2703

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
**Dates and assignments subject to change**

Jan 21: Discuss Syllabus/Attire

Jan 23: Basic Overall Body Warm Up
Pedestrian movement exploration: Body Awareness; Spatial Awareness; Focus; Non-locomotor/Locomotor

Jan. 28, 30: Cunningham Technique
Body Curves; Footwork; Tilts; Arches; Rotation; Balances; Directional Changes; Focus

Feb. 4, 6: Expanded Cunningham Technique
Long leg stretches; Leg Circles, Beats; Releves; Lunges; Transfer of Weight
Across the Floor: Triplets; Walks; Runs; Jumps; Turns; Leap Variations

Feb. 11,13: Laban and Bartenieff Fundamentals

Feb. 18, 20: Motion Factors: Body, Effort, Space, Shape
Points of Connection: Breath, Core-Distal, Head-Tail, Upper-Lower, Body Half, Cross-Lateral
Basic Six: Femoral Flexion, Sagittal Pelvic Shift, Lateral Pelvic Shift, Knee Reach, Body Half, Arm Circles

Feb. 25, 27: Review for Evaluation #1 – Cunningham/Laban/Bartenieff
Begin working on performance piece

Mar. 3, 5: Evaluation #1 – Terminology and Combinations
Begin working on performance piece

Mar. 10, 12: SPRING BREAK

Mar 17, 19: Graham Floorwork/Locomotor Fundamentals
Breath; Contract/Release; Core Focus; Spirals; Leg Swing
Across the Floor: Triplets; Prances; Brushes; Leap Variations; Floorwork Locomotion

Mar. 24, 26: Limon Technique
Breath; Weight, Gravity; Fall/Recovery; Suspension; Opposition
Work on performance piece

Mar. 31, 2: Expanded Limon Technique
Impulse; Succession of movement; Floorwork; Inversions
Across the Floor: Leap Variations; Inversion Variations; Fluid, Full-Body Concentration
Work on performance piece

Apr. 7: Review for Evaluation #2 – Graham/Limon
Work on performance piece

Apr. 14, 16: Utilizing Modern in Contemporary Dance
Spatial Awareness; Kinesphere; Directional Changes; Focus; Weight Transfer; Body Connections with Impulse; Contract/Release; Fall/Recovery; Weight; Floorwork; Across the Floor
Rehearse and refine performance piece

Apr. 21, 23: Rehearse and refine performance piece
FINAL: LOAD-IN – ISLAND DANCE DEMO IN WILSON THEATER

Apr. 22: FINAL: LOAD-IN – ISLAND DANCE DEMO IN WILSON THEATER
FINAL: DRESS REHEARSAL – WILSON THEATER
TECH REHEARSAL (AT WILSON DURING CLASS TIME)

Apr. 23 5:30 P.M. DANCER CALL – WILSON THEATER
7:30 P.M. FINAL – PERFORMANCE – ISLAND DANCE DEMO IN WILSON THEATER
FINAL – STRIKE AFTER CONCERT

“I saw dance as a vision of ineffable power. A man could, with dignity and a towering majesty, dance. Not prance, cavort, do ‘fancy dancing,’ or show-off steps. No: dance as Michelangelo’s visions dance and as the music of Bach dances.”

-José Limón