



Elijah Alhadji Gibson
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Sam Houston State University
DANC 1372 Dance As Art
M/W/F 9:00-9:50
Credits: 3

Fall 2017
Office Hours
By Appointment Only
Room: 150 G

Course Description:

This course is a video survey for the vast range of dance that has taken place in the 20th century. We will explore dance as an art form and how conceptualizations of “dance” and “art” affect the situation of dance in relationship with other art forms and in society at large. Each week through lecture, reading, watching, and in-class activities, we address a different question about dance as art, including who dances, where dance happens, how we dance, and why we dance.

This is a writing enhanced course. Most often, the information for each unit will be presented on Monday and Wednesday. On Friday, there will be an assignment, quiz or culminating experience covering the unit.

Course Objectives:

- To ignite the students curiosity and excitement about the possibilities of this art form.
- To introduce dance in its many artistic forms: religious, historical, political, social and theatrical.
- To express reactions, thoughts, and ideas about dance in writing.
- To create an original, personal, written definition of Dance, Art and Dance as Art, as perceived by each student. This is a live and working document that will deepen and change as you develop as a dance artist.
- Improve their ability to articulate opinions about dance as an art
- Sharpen their observation and movement analysis skills

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is necessary in order to receive the information on the topics covered and to complete the assignments, most of which will be completed in class. Attendance will be taken each and every class period. Each absence in excess of three class periods will

lower the student's course grade by **5 percentage points**. No make-up classes will be allowed. Any absence for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation before the absence occurs and presents official documentation. Professional opportunities (**at the professors discretion**) will be assessed at half an absence. All other absences count toward the total of three.

TARDINESS

Three late arrivals or early exits will be counted as one absence. If the student does come to class late, it is his/her responsibility to check in with the instructor to assure that their presence is properly recorded. Five minutes late will result in an absence.

CASTING POLICY

Casting Policy – Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or an F in any dance major courses will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. There is a **NO cellular phone** policy. They must be turned off or put on airplane mode before class begins. If you are caught on your cell phone you will be asked to leave the room and will take an absence. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class, resulting in an absence. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students

with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

Each individual student is evaluated in terms of his or her completion of his or her assignments and that student's fulfillment of his/her potential in relation to the instructor's expectations for that individual. **The student's attitude, willingness to work, and assimilation of corrections** will help determine the grade, as **will punctuality and classroom courtesy. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will severely affect grading.** This is a writing enhanced course and all essay assignments must be completed using the MLA guidelines. (a link to MLA formatting <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). I also encourage you to take advantage of the writing center for the proofreading of your work.

The course grade is based on:

- 10% Daily Participation
 - Showing up on-time and ready to work and is an active participant in class.
- 15% Dance Concert Attendance
 - The dance concert you are to attend is the Dance Gallery Festival. Dance Gallery dates are October 26-27 at 8pm in the dance theater in the PAC. For this performance, you are to write a short review of the production, no more than 500 words. This assignment is due at the top of class, Monday, October 30.
- 10% Additional shows
 - In addition to Dance Gallery, you are to attend a Music concert and a Theater (or Musical Theater) production. There is no written assignment for these two shows; it's a pass or fail. You show up and get credit, or you miss it and do not get credit. After you attend your selected show, you have one week from the date of the performance to bring me a copy of your ticket stub and program, showing me proof that you in fact saw the show. You can visit the FAMC page for dates and show times of all the music and theater productions (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/fine-arts-and-mass-communication/news-and-events/tickets.html>).

-15% Essays
-You will have two short essays.

-20% Quizzes
-You will have 5 quizzes throughout the course.

Grading Criteria:

-80% Content
-20% Grammar

-30% Final Presentation

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with notice.

I have received, read, and understand the nature of and requirements for:
DANC 1372 Dance As Art, Fall 2017, taught by Elijah Alhadji Gibson

Name

Date