



SYLLABUS: Improvisation & Partnering
DNC 3336-01
Fall 2017
Meeting Time: MTHF 1:00-2:30
Performing Arts Center, Dance Theater

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This Improvisation & Partnering course is comprised of two interacting components. First, improvisational techniques will enable the student to explore movement through spontaneous problem solving. Second, partnering techniques will allow the student to physically connect and support each other through weight sharing exchanges. Group discussions will facilitate the learning process and encourage student's individuality as well as foster a community of compromise and trust. Throughout the duration of the course guest instructors will be invited to offer their expertise in these areas of study.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Examine free-play inside of the improvisational process
- Take bigger risk's in one's dancing and further develop individuality
- Understand the basic mechanics of partnering
- Practice various partnering techniques such as; Contact Improvisation, Ballet, and Modern
- Develop a community of trust with their classmates
- Develop their body listening skills
- Participate in Contact Improvisation Jams
- Gain a broader understanding of the creative process
- Develop movement expression by responding to internal stimuli (feelings) as well as external stimuli (reactions to outside environment)

COURSE POLICIES:

- ATTENDANCE POLICY – Due to the participatory nature of the course, attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each and every class period. Each absence in excess of **six** class periods will lower the student's course grade by **5** points. No make-up classes will be allowed. Absences for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation before the absence occurs and presents official documentation. Absences that occur in lieu of professional opportunities will be assessed at half an absence.

In cases of minor injury or illness, students may be allowed to observe rather than participate physically. In such cases the student must request the accommodation before class begins and present observation notes to the instructor at the conclusion of class.

Students with ongoing medical or physical problems must develop a program of recovery in consultation with a physician/ physiotherapist and with the instructor. If the condition interferes with the student's ability to participate for an extended period he or she will be advised to drop the course.

- TARDY POLICY – Being on time is a part of professionalism and will be graded as such. Please be aware that **failure to be in class on time or leaving early will lower your overall grade.**
- DANCE PROGRAM CASTING POLICY – Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or a grade of F in other dance coursework will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.
- DANCE MAJORS MEETINGS - Dance Majors meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Students in Dance Majors technique classes (i.e. DANC 1333, 2333, 3333, 4333 and DNC 1334, 2334, 3334, 4334, 3336) must attend Dance Majors meetings. **Absence from the Majors Meeting counts as one of the 6 absences allowed for the course.** Make your schedule clear for these times. NO EXCUSES!!!
- CELL PHONE POLICY - **No cell phones are allowed in class.** Any student using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave class. **This early departure will be counted as an absence.**
Please see the Dance Program website for Policies Website:
www.shsu.edu/~www_dance/policies
- CLASSROOM DRESS – When selecting attire to wear for class, please consider these two things: Can I move in this freely? Does this attire show my alignment and the use of my muscles and bones as clearly as possible? The more I can see of your body, the better I can help you grow as a dancer. Tights and leotard, form fitting pants and tank top, bike shorts and form-fitting top are all options.
- ETIQUETTE – Please leave all of your belongings in your locker. No gum, food, or drink allowed in studio. Water bottles are the lone exception to the rule.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

Outlined below are the questions I will be asking you throughout this course that will define your grade:

- **RISK TAKING** – Are you stepping outside of your creative comfort zone and willing to try something new? Are you capable of relinquishing control and give into the moment?
- **TRUST** – It is challenging to trust oneself and take risks at the same time, but it is integral to any sort of improvisation. Partnering requires you to trust yourself. If you cannot trust yourself-- then how can the person you are partnering trust you? Are you willing to trust?
- **COMPROMISE** - When involved in any sort of partnering, acknowledge that you are committed to a relationship, albeit temporary, and that a healthy relationship requires give and take. Do you understand how to listen?
- **INVESTMENT** – Did you fully commit to the assignment and take feedback constructively?
- **REFLECTION** – One of the best ways to grow is to reflect upon your actions. Are you willing to share your insights, discoveries and growth with the class?
- **SAFETY** - Most importantly work intelligently. If you have an injury and certain aspects of the class aggravate or distress the injury, communicate your fears and work within your means. In general, use common sense. Are you working intelligently?
- **PROFESSIONALISM** – Professionalism in dance is more than just decorum; it is for the safety and well being of you and your classmates. Were you consistent, concentrated, punctual, and motivated?

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Contact Improvisation Jam (30% of grade)** – Two Contact Jams will be scheduled outside of class time during the semester. Your attendance is mandatory! Times will be decided well in advance to give the student enough time to make accommodations.
- **In-Class Assignments (50% of grade)** – All exercises, structured improvisations and movement explorations will be evaluated based on the above list of questions.
- **Skills Test (20% of grade)** – A comprehensive skills test will be given November 13 & 14 during class time. This will highlight many of the techniques and concepts covered during the semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The

university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

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. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. 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. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

VISITOR(S) TO THE CLASSROOM

Advance approval is required by the instructor. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If a visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT

It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the

Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex; phone 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786; e-mail disability@shsu.edu; web www.shsu.edu/disability).

A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case- by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University Policy 861001 provides procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester or the first 7 days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will respond to the student in writing notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

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