



SYLLABUS: Choreography I

DANC 2376-01

Fall 2017

Meeting Time: M/W/F 11-12:30

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Joshua Manculich - Assistant Professor of Dance
 Office: GPAC 150 H
 Office Hours: T/TH, 9:30-11, Friday: 12:30-2:30
 Email: jxml85@shsu.edu; davidarevalo@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"Each moment of watching a dance can be read as the product of choices, inherited, invented, or selected..."

**Susan Leigh Foster
 (Choreographing Empathy)**

This is an introductory level choreography class that will examine the basic principles of movement generation, phrasing, and choreographic choice/style. Various creative tools will be examined as entry points into the creative process. Emphasis is placed on work-shopping ideas and taking creative risks. The showing of choreographic studies will provide students with the opportunity to articulate and defend their observations and choices. The course will conclude with the presentation of a three to four-minute abstract choreographic solo.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students will:

- o Explore various ways to generate movement
- o Understand the principles of time, space, and energy
- o Engage the task of understanding how meaning is conveyed through movement.
- o Demonstrate a basic understanding of motif and the principles of theme and variation
- o Investigate choreographic and creative structures (ABA)
- o Examine various strategies for problem solving
- o Learn methods for critiquing choreography
- o Articulate abstract concepts
- o Develop various movement studies
- o Produce a finished solo
- o Discuss and trace their own choreographic thinking and process
- o Explore a personal movement aesthetic

REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:

Attendance and Participation (20pts)

Participation goes **BEYOND** attending class. It includes active involvement with in-class movement explorations, labs, and discussions, dedication to coaching and directing, engagement with course ideas, and physical commitment to movement studies.

Choreographic Studies (60pts)

Students will create and present movement studies EVERY WEEK, due on the first-class session of the week. These assignments will be solo explorations. By the end of the semester, the class will transition away from smaller studies, 30-45seconds, to "works in progress by" that exist in the 2-3-minute range.

Final projects will emerge from these weekly studies, performed during the last week of classes.

Grades for choreographic studies will be based upon the following:

- o comprehension and embodiment of the choreographic idea
- o examination of movement development
- o ability to create structure and context for a movement idea
- o degree of personal exploration and originality

Concert Attendance (10pts)

Students are required to attend two concerts, gallery exhibitions, and/or show **in addition to attending Dance Gallery:**

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/fine-arts-and-mass-communication/news-and-events/box-office.html>

Department of Dance <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/dance/current-students/events.html>

School of Music <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/events-and-special-events/>

Department of Theater <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/theatre/tickets/>

Department of Art <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/events/>

Writing Assignments (10pts)

Students will write two papers for the course:

Guidelines for all papers:

- o 12-point font, page-numbers, MLA format
- o double-spaced
- o Upload to blackboard
- o late papers are reduced by one full letter grade for each 24-hours late

PAPER ONE (350 words): DUE: Monday: October 2nd, 5PM

You receive \$2000 dollars to make a solo (on yourself). It will be shown in a weekend dance festival here in Houston. Imagine that the performance takes place in an intimate black box theater. The grant requires you to pay yourself \$1000, and use the other \$1000 towards the work itself. You are presenting alongside other young budding choreographers? What will

you make? Where will it be? Will you dance to music? Get specific and start imagining.

FINAL PAPER (1250 words): Due: Monday: December 4th, 5PM

You will address your work relating to:

- o the course material
- o class discussions
- o concert viewing (a minimum of 500 words of the total word count)

GRADING (100pts)

- **A** = Consistent, generous, thoughtful, curious involvement in classroom material - extraordinary improvement - overall exemplary performance of course objectives **(100-90)**
- **B** = Consistent involvement in classroom material - gaining an understanding of the material presented daily - overall above average performance of course objectives **(89-80)**
- **C** = Lack of consistency in classroom material - not gaining an understanding of the material presented daily - minimal improvement - average performance of course objectives **(79-70)**
- **D** = Failing to participate in classroom material - not demonstrating or gaining an understanding of material presented daily - no improvement due to lack of concentrated effort- failing to take corrections - Below average performance of course objectives **(69-60)**
- **F** = Inability to keep up with class work due to excessive absences **(<60)**

Note - The difference between an A and a B lies heavily in attitude - I look forward to your pleasant and open faces in class. This expectation is designed to prepare the student for the creative demands of the profession.

DANCE DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY - Due to the participatory nature of the course, attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each class period. Each absence in **excess of 4 class periods will lower the student's course grade by 5 percentage points**. Absences for official university functions may be excused provided the student requests this accommodation well in advance and presents official documentation. All other absences count toward the total. Professional opportunities will be assessed at half an absence.

TARDY POLICY - Students will not be allowed to be tardy to class. Being tardy consistently will result in a poor class participation grade.

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.

DANCE PROGRAM CASTING POLICY - Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or F in dance academic courses will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY - 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 - Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT - 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 email 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.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY - Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." 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 the 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). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.