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Sam Houston State University  
DANC 5376.01  
M/W/F 11-12:30  
Credits: 3

Fall 2017  
Office Hours  
By Appointment Only  
Room 150 G

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This graduate choreography course builds upon previous composition courses and will examine various approaches to the creative process. This class aims to deepen your choreographic skills over the creative process through movement research, conceptual ideas, group discussions, and journal documentation. In addition, further develop and strengthen your skills as a director. The exercises and assignments will test your ability to adapt to a variety of situations and hone problem-solving skills. The foundation of your work in class will be based on several themes, structured exercises, and multiple topics related to the craft of composition, architecture, concepts, and choreography. You will be encouraged to work with duets, trios, and small groups as a director.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Investigate communicative properties of movement
- Explore various methods of movement invention
- Examine various strategies for problem solving
- Direct and manage dancers through the creative process
- Develop leadership and directing skills
- Choreograph multiple short works
- Create works based on specific themed conceptual ideas

## **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 three class periods will lower the student's course grade by **5 percentage points**. No make-up classes will be allowed. Absences for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation well in advance 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**

Class will begin on time. Students will not be allowed to be tardy to class. If you are tardy, you will not participate and will take a zero for daily participation. Please be aware that **failure to be in class within five minutes of the start time will result in an absence**. Dancers who are unable to participate physically are expected to observe class

and take notes (handwritten). In such cases the student must request the accommodation before class begins and present observation notes to the instructor at the conclusion of class or do other observation-related assignments as assigned by the instructor.

**Observations count only 50% toward attendance; therefore, two observations add up to one absence.**

## **DANCE MAJORS MEETINGS**

Dance majors meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the dance theater. Students in Dance Majors technique classes (DANC 1333, 2333, 3333, 4333, 1334, 2334, 3334, 4334, 3335, and 4335) must attend Dance Majors Meetings.

**Absence from Dance Majors Meetings counts as one of the 6 absences allowed for the course.**

## **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

## **DRESS CODE/CLASS ETIQUETTE**

**Acceptable attire:**

**-YOU ARE TO WEAR DANCE CLOTHES (leotard, sports bra, and tights, leggings, or dance shorts)!...NO bulky oversized sweats/pants. NO baggy tops or T-shirts. Your hair needs to be UP, out of your face, off your neck, and contained so that it is not moving so much to where it is distracting to the eye. We will begin class in bare feet and possibly transition into socks later at some point during the class (unless specified otherwise).**

**\*If you are not dressed properly, you WILL NOT participate in class.**

There will be minimal downtime during the class and you are expected to be fully present the entire time. Once the class begins, unless it is a dire circumstance, you are not allowed to leave the room. Make sure all bathroom needs are taken care of prior to the start of class and to bring your water bottles in the classroom with you. If you leave the room at anytime during the duration of the class you will, consider your class over, and you take an observation grade for the day.

## **EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

Each individual student is evaluated in terms of how completely that student fulfills his/her potential in relation to the instructor's expectations for that individual and for the level of the class as a whole. **The student's attitude, willingness to work, and assimilation of corrections** will help determine the grade, as **will punctuality and studio courtesy**. Grades will reflect the student's perceived level of professional discipline throughout the semester and progress toward the instructor's individualized

goals for artistry and training. **Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will severely affect grading.**

**The course grade is based on:**

-10% Daily Participation

-Showing up on-time and ready to work and is an active participant in class.

-20% Choreographic assignments

-Personal growth and consistency, focus, collaborative endeavor, dexterity on problem solving, and fearless creativity are heavily weighed.

At the midpoint of each given assignment, you are to schedule a time with me to show me the progress of your work for feedback. If you are not able to schedule a meeting time, be sure to send me a video of the work. For each choreographic process, you will be partnered with a cohort and are to offer each other feedback throughout the creative process.

-20% Journal

-You are requested to keep a journal documenting your creative experiences during the semester, specifically in regards to your final project. You are encouraged to relate your life as a performer, choreographer, and teacher to your experience in this course.

**Final Project**

-35% Choreographic portion

-15% Written portion

A small written proposal (two paragraphs) stating your intentions, initial ideas or concept, and musical choice is due on **Friday, September 15** via email to [Elijah@shsu.edu](mailto:Elijah@shsu.edu). You will present this work in the Masters of Dance concert, November 9 & 10. You will have three scheduled check-in points with me up till the date of the show for feedback.

A final analysis of your work will bring your project to closure. You will write a three-page paper minimum, double-spaced, with 11-pitch font. In this paper you will present an overview of your process from beginning to end. You will not only analyze your challenges and accomplishments, but also the development of your concept, the collaborative process that took place (if applicable), and the overall craft you applied in the process based on the reading, *The Six Questions, Acting Technique for Dance Performance* by Daniel Nagrin.

**GRADING FORMULA FOR THIS PAPER** - I will consider 80% of your grade for the paper's content and presentation; 20% of the grade will be based on

grammar and punctuation. Deadline **Monday, November 27**. No papers will be accepted after that date. This cannot be turned in electronically, hard copies only.

**\* ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE IN THE CLASS!**

**\*If you have any questions or problems completing any of the assignments, contact me.**

I have received, read, and understand the nature of and requirements for:  
DANC 5376.01 Grad Pedagogy

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Name

Date