



**SYLLABUS: Dance Pedagogy**  
**DANC 4384**  
**Fall 2017**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50**  
**Location: GPAC 240**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Jennifer Pontius  
Office: GPAC150K  
Office Hours: Tues 8-10; Wed 10-11:30  
Also by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** *Pedagogy* is defined as “the art, science, or profession of teaching” (Miriam Webster Dictionary). This course will provide tools and experiences through which skills as teachers of dance will be developed. As a highly codified and fundamental concert dance technique, ballet will serve as the model through which concepts will be examined and practiced. Students will be challenged to apply the pedagogical principles practiced through the frame of ballet to effective teaching in other genres, such as modern, jazz, hip hop, tap, etc.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the semester, students will:

- \*demonstrate the ability to design and deliver material appropriate for the development of dance technique
- \*understand differences in approach when teaching different populations, in different settings
- \*discover and develop his or her personal teaching style effectively
- \*have an understanding of different learning styles and how to engage with these learners
- \*determine goals for an exercise
- \* structure an effective class

\*design progressive stages towards the attainment of advanced skills

\*use musical accompaniment effectively

\* apply the structuring principles used in the investigation of ballet pedagogy to other genres of dance

## **EVALUATION:**

1,000 points are distributed throughout the semester. Some of the following categories will encompass multiple assignments. Points are for the total in each category.

200     Class participation: 10 points x20 class meetings, allowing for 3 absences, with some spare “brownie points”

200     Quizzes

200     In-class presentations

200     Out of class assignments, some of which will be paired with in-class presentations

200     Final project

50     *Extra credit options. These will be included in several assignments and will be explained at the time the assignments are given.*

## **GRADE DETERMINATION\***

1000-900=A; 899-800=B; 799-700=C; 699-600=D; below 600=F.

\*A grade of C or higher is required for this course to count towards your dance major or minor.

\*A grade of C or higher is also required for casting eligibility in spring 2018 Dance Spectrum.

\*I will be giving students a mid-term evaluation that summarizes the grade earned thus far. In other words, if a possible total 500 points has been provided at that point, and the student has earned only 300 points, the evaluation will show that the grade is a 600, or a failing grade. I will also attempt to keep up with students grade status throughout the semester in order to alert anyone who is falling behind.

\*Please do not hesitate to avail yourself of my office hours, or to make an appointment to see me. My goal is for everyone to have a successful experience. I do not wish to give any ugly

grades, but will do so if I need to. I will also give extra consideration in final grades for those who have sought help.

### **\*Attendance**

Each class has points attached to it. This class requires the regular participation by all class members. Since there is no text, you will need to take notes. You will receive hand-outs from various sources, plus you will be developing materials in and out of class time. You will assume the roles of *teacher* and *student* for your fellow students. Even if you are not scheduled to present material on a class day, the students who are presenting need your participation as students for them to teach, and for your feedback on their efforts. There will also be frequent quizzes in class.

A maximum of three absences are permitted without deductions from your final grade. Beyond these three absences, each additional absence will deduct 50 points from your final grade. For example, if your final grade is 900, an A, but you have three absences, you will still have an A; if you have four absences, you will have 850 points, a B; five absences will take you down to 800, still a B; six absences results in a grade of 750, a C; etc.

It is professional courtesy to contact your teacher when you are absent. If you know you will be absent on a specific date, email in advance. You do not have to divulge all the gory details of your illness or the private details of your life. (If you do, I will keep that information in confidence.) Many of you have jobs and hope to keep jobs in the future. Practice accountability now. It will serve you well.

Absences for departmental responsibilities will not be counted against the student, provided that the student has submitted the departmental form requesting excuse from class(es) for a professional opportunity. The form is to be submitted prior to the event. This form is available in the dance office and on our SHSU dance department page. Fill out the entire form, and submit your request to the dance office for consideration by the chair (me). Please note that this is a “request,” not an “announcement.” If the request is approved, it will be signed and returned. The student should then submit copies to all instructors of all classes affected. After the event, the student must bring documentation, typically a program. Without prior documented approval and documentation, the absence will likely be recorded as a regular absence, without consideration. Please note that even though the absence is excused, the student remains responsible for material missed.

If you must miss courses outside the dance department due to professional opportunities or departmentally sponsored events, you should request a letter from me, as department chair, as soon as you see a conflict. There is no guarantee that professors in other departments will excuse your absences, but you will have a better chance in receiving consideration if, one, your attendance in their class has been otherwise exemplary, and if, two, you have a request from the department on official letterhead.

If you are absent, you will still be responsible for the material covered in the class. Find a buddy who takes good notes, has a good memory, and can be relied on to get an extra hand-

out on your behalf. If you were assigned to present on the day you were absent, you will have one opportunity to make up that assignment either in a future class or at an alternative time scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

## **Supplies**

- At least one recording of a ballet class approved by me. This can be downloaded, or it can be a CD. Amazon has a number of good options.
  - A folder or binder in which to keep handouts.
  - A notebook or loose paper for making notes during class.
  - Index cards in a nifty little box.
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- A dictionary of ballet terms is highly recommended. There are many texts ranging from small, used, and cheap, to extensive, photo-filled, and pricey. If you already have such a resource, you should be set. The following are recommended and should be available from Amazon or other sources.

Classical Ballet Technique, by Gretchen Ward Warren (expensive but pretty)

Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet, by Gail Gant (very inexpensive)

## **Expectations**

- Although not a technique class, this is a class about teaching technique. Come dressed in clothing that will allow you to dance. Tie back your hair, if it is long. Bring your ballet shoes or socks.
- Respect is essential. As other students are working in the role of *teacher*, accord them the same attentive respect you should give your professors.
- Arrive on time and prepared to begin.

## **SHSU Academic Policies and Procedures**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see Dean of Student's Office.

**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.

**VISITORS IN 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.

**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](mailto: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: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

</dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** This syllabus is a guide for the course. It is a contract between the students and the teacher. If the need arises to modify any aspect of the syllabus, consent of all members of the class must be obtained.