



**SYLLABUS: Modern Dance Technique II**  
**DNC 2334-01**  
**Fall 2017**

**Meeting Time: MTHF 2:40-4:00**  
**Performing Arts Center, Room #250**

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Andy Noble, Instructor  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a beginning level pre-professional modern dance course that will build upon the experiences gained in previous dance classes. Studio time will consist of both simple and complex phrase work that emphasizes alignment, transitions, "use of weight", performance quality, core movement and dynamic range. This course will promote a highly focused and continually playful approach to technique class, one that blends the artistic and technical aspects of dance and challenges each student to make clearer, more articulate choices. Material for this course will be drawn from a variety of modern and post-modern dance styles.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Develop and strengthen one's understanding of the use of the core in all movement, including the use of the spine and abdominal muscles to support movement.
- Refine alignment – Stand with efficiency and ease using minimal concentrated tension.
- Demonstrate artistic understanding of transitions – Improve ability to connect movements seamlessly.
- Develop a broader understanding of the "use of weight" to accomplish movement with greater range and ease.
- Expand movement vocabulary – Continue to develop a more versatile instrument.
- Create a greater kinesthetic awareness and improve one's ability to see and analyze movement, thus becoming one's own best teacher.
- Expand performance ability – Stay actively involved and committed through entire class, even during the little moments.

- Develop dynamic range – Give movement the full breadth and range of colors.
- Take bigger risk's in one's dancing and further develop individuality.

### 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 in the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet. 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) 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](http://www.shsu.edu/~www_dance/policies)

- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** - Demonstrate genuine interest, dedication, and investment in class material. Be consistent, concentrated, punctual, motivated and willing to take risks. Ask for clarification of anything you don't understand. Demonstrate a willingness to assimilate corrections.
- **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:**

Evaluation will be broken into three categories.

- Body Preparedness
- Dance as Art
- Professionalism

Please see attached grading rubric "Dance Technique Feedback Sheet" for more details.

### **Grading Scale**

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
<60	F

## ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **INTRODUCTION LETTER (5%)** –□ Please write a typed one-page double-spaced letter, addressed to me, that addresses your short and long-term goals for this class. Also, please share with me what motivates you to excel in dance class. This letter will be used as a reference during conferences and evaluations. Letters are due **Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**. Failure to turn in the letter will result in the lowering of your final grade.
2. **MIDTERM LETTER (5%)** – Please write a typed two-paged paper that accesses your growth and development so far this semester in Modern Technique. Please go into detail about one or two areas that you are feeling vast improvement and one or two areas that still need substantial attention. This paper will be used as a reference for your midterm evaluation. Due date will be announced in class at a later time.
3. **CONCERT ATTENDANCE (10%)** – This semester **Dance Gallery** is a required performance. The festival performances are October 27-28 at 8pm. In lieu of purchasing a textbook for this course, dance students are required to pay full-price of \$15 for the Dance Gallery performance. There will be **no excused absences** from this production. Please arrange your schedule to accommodate your attendance well in advance. Failure to complete the Attendance requirement will result in a 10% penalty in your final course grade.
4. **PERFORMANCE MIDTERM (40%)** – The midterm will be based off of movement material explored during the first-half of the semester. You will be evaluated based upon your ability to perform class material, assimilate class notes and overall personal growth. At midterm I will ask each of you to fill out a form evaluating your accomplishments in class thus far. I will fill out a “dance technique feedback sheet” and assign you a midterm grade. We will meet briefly to discuss the evaluations and set personal future classroom goals for the remaining of the semester. This meeting is meant to give you an opportunity to personally assess your improvement and gain insight of my observations of your classroom performance. Ideally, this meeting will provide you with useful information that you can use towards improving your overall progress and final grade.
5. **PERFORMANCE FINAL (40%)** –□ The final will be based off of movement material explored during the entire semester. You will be evaluated based upon your ability to perform class material, assimilate class notes and overall personal growth.

## **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](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); web [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://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.