



**SYLLABUS: Modern Dance Technique
III DNC 3334
Spring 2014
Meeting Time: M/F 2:30- 3:50, T/Th
12:30-1:50
PAC 258**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dionne Noble – *Assistant Professor of Dance*
Office: PAC 150C
Office Hours: By Appointment
Telephone: 936-294-1588
Email: dlN008@shsu.edu
Mail Box Location: Dance Program Main Office

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an intermediate level class designed for students committed to the serious study of modern and post-modern dance. Emphasis will be placed on providing students with a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of modern dance. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to strengthen their core and structural alignment, thus creating a base from which they can explore and perform larger ranges of movement. Studio work will concentrate on the use of breath, the pathway of the pelvis, the subtlety of the spine, the strength of parallel, and the length of the limbs. Specific material will derive from a variety of modern and post-modern styles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 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
- Develop a strong understanding of working through parallel position
- Demonstrate the ability to assimilate corrections and verbal information in such a way that the body begins to move with more clarity
- Discover and explore one's growing range of motion
- Concentrate on moving the pelvis through space in efficient ways
- Heighten one's ability to use breath in ways that is beneficial and supportive of one's dancing
- Encourage one's self to take bigger risks in one's dancing

COURSE POLICIES:

- **DEPARTMENT 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. Professional opportunities will be assessed at half an absence. All other absences count toward the total of six.

There is a strict no tardy policy. Tardy students will not be allowed into class and will receive an absence for the day.

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.

Attendance at Dance majors meetings is required of all students in Dance Majors technique classes. Majors meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Make your schedule clear for these times. **NO EXCUSES!!!**

Casting Policy – Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or an F in dance major courses will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.

- **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 turn off or mute your cell phone. No gum, food, or drink allowed in classroom. Water bottles are the lone exception to the rule

In General:

- **A** = Consistent, generous, thoughtful, curious involvement in classroom material – gaining and demonstrating an understanding of the material presented daily – extraordinary improvement – demonstrated ability to take and make corrections – overall exemplary performance of course objectives
- **B** = Consistent involvement in classroom material – gaining an understanding of the material presented daily – average improvement – demonstrated ability to take and make corrections – overall above average performance of course objectives
- **C** = Lack of consistency in classroom material – not gaining an understanding of the material presented daily – minimal improvement – difficulty with corrections – average performance of course objectives

- **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
- **F** = Inability to keep up with class work due to excessive absences

Note – The difference between an A and a B lies heavily in attitude – I look forward to your pleasant and open faces in class.

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **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.
2. **MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUE JOURNAL** – This semester I would like for you to journal about your observations, accomplishments, and challenges during this semester of modern dance. I would like for you to have at least one entry per week and it should reflect that week's work or your observations up to that point in the semester. I may at times give you a subject to reflect upon but for the most part this journal is time for you to reflect on your progress thus far. Please bring your journals on Fridays. An incomplete or half-hearted journal will not be accepted for credit. Those who fail to turn in a journal at the end of the semester cannot receive an A in the course.
3. **FINE ARTS ATTENDANCE** – This semester students will attend **The Dance Gallery Festival on November 27 or 28, 2017**. The price for this fabulous evening of dance is \$15. Attendance is mandatory and role will be taken at the event both evenings. **Failure to attend this event will result in 10% lowering of the student's grade.** I will ask that you write a three-paragraph reflection of the evening in your journal to use in an in class discussion regarding the show.
4. **PERFORMANCE MIDTERM** – The midterm will be based off of a set class of material learned and perfected over a two-week period. You will be evaluated based upon your ability to perform the 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. You will be asked to bring your journal to this meeting.
5. **PERFORMANCE FINAL** – The final will be based off of movement material explored during the 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 *Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.*

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.