



**SYLLABUS: DANC 4334.01**  
**Fall 2017**  
**Meeting Time: M/T/TH/F 2:40 - 4:00**  
**Location: As assigned per class**

*Syllabus change policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.*

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an advanced level technique class in modern and post-modern dance designed for students committed to *serious* study of the art form.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Develop an organic approach to movement, increased physical and spatial awareness, and efficient kinetic organization
- Learn specific exercises to strengthen, stretch, and tone the body with an emphasis on proper alignment of torso, head, and limbs in relation to the axis of the spine
- Develop a strong understanding of working through parallel
- Demonstrate the ability to assimilate corrections and verbal information in such a way that the body continues to move with more clarity
- An understanding of where any movement initiates, and an ability to integrate this into the body quickly
- Heighten one's ability to use breath in ways that is beneficial and supportive of one's dancing
- Continued exploration of individual artistic choices within movement exercise
- Encourage one's self to take bigger risks in one's dancing
- Demonstrate an understanding of:
  - Fall and Recovery
  - Efficient Weight Shifting
  - Movement Follow-Through
  - Moving clearly through space
  - The concept of body half and its impact on the spiraling of movement around the spine as the central axis of the body in motion
  - Contraction/release as an impulse for moving and physical organization

**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 if 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.

**DURING DAYS OF OBSERVATION, STUDENTS WILL HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT DUE TWO CLASS PERIODS FROM THE CLASS(ES) THEY OBSERVED.**

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 and to attend Dance Gallery.** 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.

**PLEASE REFER TO CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT HANDOUT.**

**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 (100-90)

- **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 (**89-80**)
- **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 (**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 demands of the profession.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

##### **1. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (40pts)**

What we achieve in this class comes from how we work together. The following expectations create a successful student and artist.

- Commitment EVERY CLASS, to the laboratory environment of a technique class and to tradition and evolution of the art form
- Willingness to change
- Consistent effort
- Communication- speaking and listening
- "Showing up"- Bringing your whole self, body mind and spirit, to class

##### **2. FINAL CREATIVE PROJECT (10pts)**

A final creative project is required as a component of the student's final grade. The subject of the Final is presented after mid-semester; and is clearly outlined and discussed in class. The Final Creative Project is then performed in class during the last week of class and is open to peer feedback and critical analysis by the class.

##### **3. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT & TECHNIQUE (50pts)**

Students will be evaluated based upon their ability to perform class material, assimilate class notes and overall performance 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** - 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 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.

**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.