



**SYLLABUS: Jazz Dance Technique I  
DANC 1223.01**

**Fall 2017**

**Meeting Time: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:50**

**Location: GPAC Studio 254**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Instructor Name: Michelle Cantua**

**Office: GPAC Suite 150 A**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:30 or By Appointment**

**Telephone: (936) 294-1875**

**Email: [Msc023@shsu.edu](mailto:Msc023@shsu.edu)**

**Mail Box Location: Dance Program Main Office**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed for beginning dance students with a desire to increase knowledge and execution of basic movement patterns in jazz. This is a beginner level Jazz dance technique class for non-dance majors. Jazz I technique will serve as an introduction of skill building, vocabulary and principles. The student will learn the process of a proper Jazz dance class. Emphasis will be placed on the development of strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination and understanding of rhythm and timing.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students will

1. Have an understanding of fundamentals of Jazz dance vocabulary and technique
2. Show an increased awareness of proper alignment and control
3. Improve strength, endurance, and flexibility
4. Strengthen overall coordination, musicality, and movement memory.
5. Display an ability to receive and apply constructive feedback in such a way that the student continues to improve their movement patterns
6. Demonstrate an understanding of where movement initiates from and be able to practice this in their own bodies

**COURSE POLICIES:**

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Due to participatory nature of the course, attendance will be taken each and every class period. Students will be allowed 3 absences and any absence

thereafter will lower the student's course grade by **5** points. It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on material missed during absence. Tardiness will not be permitted. Tardy students will be asked to sit out of class and an excess of **3** tardies will be the equivalent of **1** absence.

2. **CLASSROOM ATTIRE:** Wear form-fitting, unrestrictive clothing of a modest type. Black/Tan jazz shoes may be worn, if you don't have jazz shoes, bare foot is fine. No jeans, baggy clothing, socks, or jewelry. Fitted gym shorts are allowed with proper underwear. Males must purchase a dance belt for safety reasons. You will be doing floor work: straddles, slides, inversions... etc. Shirts need to be fitted. If shirts are long, you will be asked to tuck it in. Leggings must be of a stretch material and non-constrictive. No see-through leggings, please. Shorts that automatically rise up in the back are booty shorts. Booty shorts will not be allowed. Hair should be out of your face: half up-half down, ponytail, bun... etc. **DO NOT WEAR YOUR HAIR DOWN!!** It should be clear of your face to where you do NOT have to mess/deal with it during class.
3. **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** I highly advice you bring a filled water bottle to class and a towel to avoid distractions/interruptions. It is very disrespectful when you leave class to go to the water fountain or restroom, you could also be missing out on instruction or choreography. **NO** flavored water or alternative beverage. Absolutley no food in the studios or chewing gum. No cell phone use. All cell phones will be silenced, not on vibrate.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **Participation---50pts**

1. Proper Attire
2. Consistent Effort and Focus
3. Ability to receive and apply corrections

### **Dance Concert Attendance---20pts**

1. Students must attend **2** live SHSU dance performances, one of which must be **Dance Spectrum or Dance Gallery Festival**. Students are responsible for getting their ticket stub signed by the ushers at the **end** of the concert and turning into me by the end of the semester.
2. A 2 page double spaced paper will be written in response to **one** of those concerts. Guidelines for the paper will be discussed in class.
3. The last day to turn in your paper for credit will be **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 12pm.
4. Approved performances for full credit:

- a. Dances @ 8 (Oct 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Alexis Anderson Thesis Concert (Oct 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)
- c. The Dance Gallery Festival (Oct 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>)
- d. Masters of Dance (Nov 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)
- e. Senior Studio (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>)
- f. Dance Spectrum (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>-Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### **Majors Workshop Performance---30pts**

1. At the end of the semester all students will perform in Non-Majors Workshop a piece of choreography learned in class. Non-Majors Workshop is **December 4, 2017** at 7:00 pm, call time is 6:00 pm.

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 100-90  
 B = 89-80  
 C = 79-70  
 D = 69-65  
 F = >64

**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 936-294-1720).

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.



