

JAZZ III – DANC 3335 - Spring 2018

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Meeting Times: M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50am
Class Location: PAC 260
Office Location: UTC 115

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a Jazz technique class.
(3 CREDITS)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Focus on dance vocabulary that is specific to jazz and its various styles. Some emphasis will be given to the musical theatre genre.
- Develop body strength, flexibility, core connection, awareness, and conditioning needed to perform extended dance phrases.
- Improve dance technique foundation through the practice of dance warm up exercises.
- Develop clarity and precision in your movement through practice and repetition.
- Learn how different 'styles' can impact dance movement.
- Understand dynamics in movement.
- Explore and understand how to connect intention to your movement—to power your dancing.
- Build your awareness and interaction skills with other dancers while you are dancing.

GRADING:

- Class Participation 90%
- Mid-term skills exam 5%
- Final skills exam 5%

Class Participation (95%):

Your daily participation grade is based on, but is not limited to the following:

- Demonstrated progress toward achieving the course objectives and your own learning objectives.
- Punctuality: being ready physically and mentally to start class on time.
- Participation and Consistency: full physical and mental engagement in the material being presented in class every class. In addition, expressing verbally, asking appropriate questions, answering questions, offering solicited feedback, and sharing in group discussions—connected with class content.
- Appropriate Attire (see Attire/Personal Belongings.)
- Attitude; showing enthusiasm for the work being presented, having a willingness to incorporate the instructor's feedback into your technical and artistic practice and demonstrating respect for everyone in the room.

Please note that this is a lab class and your presence and full participation are needed for you to excel in the work. The only way to improve in a physical technique is to physically participate on a regular basis.

During the last week of classes you will participate in an informal dance technique showing where you will present movement phrases or combination from dance class. These are fun, informal and exciting events to which you may invite friends and family.

Skills Exam: Mid-term and Final (5% + 5%)

You will be given dance phrases and combinations to determine your progress throughout the semester.

Mid-Term Skills Exam – Wednesday, March 7th

Final Skills Exam - Friday, May 4th

ATTENDANCE:

- You can have as many absences as you like. However, when you miss class, it negatively affects your progress. You will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences.
- Tardiness – Students will not be allowed to be tardy to class. No student will be allowed in the studio once the doors have been closed. Please be aware that failure to be in class on time will result in half an absence. Early departures will also count as a half absence.
- If you know that you will have to be absent for any reason in advance, please put it in writing to me in an email and subsequently provide a written, hard copy letter (on letterhead) as to your need to miss class if you were at a doctor appointment.

ATTIRE/PERSONAL GROOMING:

- Please dress neatly and simply to facilitate ease of movement. Absolutely no baggy clothes of any kind. Clean lines and fitted clothing are essential for dance education. Leotards/unitards/leggings/jazz pants—are all acceptable and great dance wear choices.
- **Footwear**—Please acquire a pair of jazz shoes or jazz sneakers for class. Women, please have character heels in class as per the needs of the combination. You may warm up in socks or bare feet but shoes **MUST** be worn for combinations. If you forget your shoes, you will lose points on your daily grade.
- Long hair should be pulled back and SECURELY fastened so that you can dance at your best. This means that your hair will not need attention during the class.
- No excessive, oversized, or dangling jewelry.
- Please use the dressing rooms to change clothing.

ILLNESS POLICY/MISSED CLASSES:

- There are no make-up classes for dance technique courses. You will NOT be able to make up missed classes with written assignments unless you become ill for a prolonged period of time or significantly injured.
- If you are well, you are expected to be in class and participating to your fullest.
- Please be sure to email your instructor the reason for your absence. This does not excuse you from class, but is a professional courtesy to your instructor. (For example, if you had to miss

work, you would contact your employer to cover your shift. Otherwise you would be fired from your job.)

- If you become injured or suffer a prolonged illness during the quarter then you will need to schedule an **in-person** appointment to discuss your situation and develop a plan of action.
- If you are injured and cannot dance, but you are well enough to attend class (non-contagious), you are required to observe class and hand in descriptive notes on what you learned while observing.
- When observing class please remain alert and listen to the instructor's comments. If you are too ill to do this then you should stay at home and rest. If you are **ill and contagious**, we would prefer that you stay home and get well. Please seek professional help for illness and injuries.

Studio Conduct:

- Understand the class structure and responsibilities of the learner.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the class structure by arriving in the studio prepared for class and allowing for sufficient time to set up.
- Be respectful of your peers, the studio space and the instructor at all times.
- Receive and apply feedback and correction in a proactive and respectful manner.
- Work safely and effectively in class and allow others to do the same.
- Apply focus and concentration.
- If for some reason you are unable to dance, please inform the instructor **before** class begins to receive instructions for partial participation/observation.
- In the event of an injury, alert the instructor immediately.
- No street shoes, gum, beverages or food are allowed in the studios; plastic water bottles are permitted.
- Turn off or silence electronic devices ***before*** you enter the studio. I strongly suggest you do not check them during class time. Enjoy 90 minutes of unplugged time.

Technique Grading Policy:

The following criteria are used for assessing and grading the demonstration of skills and understanding of movement concepts.

A / 4.0 student:

- Displays technical mastery over movement material presented in class.
- Effectively integrates feedback offered by the instructor, and is consistent in applying this feedback through self-correction.
- Demonstrates self-directed learning.
- Consistently works responsibly both independently and collaboratively with peers and the instructor on course concepts and problem solving.
- Makes informed choices about the development of individual artistic voice.

B / 3.0 student:

- Displays technical competence with movement material presented in class.
- Displays continual effort to integrate feedback offered by the instructor, but may rely on instructor for prompts to correct and implement.
- Is developing skills in self-directed learning.
- Can work responsibly both independently and collaboratively with peers and the instructor on course concepts and problem solving.
- Demonstrates some evidence in development of individual artistic voice.

C / 2.0 student:

- Does not display technical competence with movement material presented in class.
- Has difficulty integrating feedback offered by the instructor, and relies on instructor for prompts to correct and implement.
- Lacks awareness to do effective independent work.
- Is inconsistent in working collaboratively with peers and the instructor on course concepts and problem solving.

D / 1.0 student:

- Does not display technical competence with movement material presented in class.
- Does not integrate feedback offered by the instructor.
- Lacks awareness to do effective independent work.
- Does not work collaboratively with peers and the instructor on course concepts and problem solving.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

Americans with Disabilities Act : 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 adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to 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 Counseling Center by calling (936) 294-1720.