



**SYLLABUS: Modern I**  
**DANC 1334.01**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Meeting Time: 10:00-10:50 am MWF**  
**Location: GPAC 258**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Evelyn Toh  
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Office Hours: By Appointment  
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Mail Box Location: Dance Program Main Office

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to enhance the beginner/intermediate student's understanding of modern and post-modern dance techniques. Through physical practice and exploration, students will expand their movement vocabulary and deepen their kinesthetic understanding of movement material. Students will strengthen their ability in floor work, use of space and navigation through levels. They will be introduced to the concept of organic, efficient movement through the use of breath, circular energy, and awareness of pathways. Specific material will derive from a variety of modern and post-modern materials.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Continue development of the core in relation to proper alignment and placement
- Expand one's ability in floor work, use of space, and navigation through levels
- Heighten one's ability to use breath and circular energy in ways that is beneficial and supportive of one's dancing
- Develop an organic, efficient approach to movement, increasing physical and spatial awareness
- Demonstrate the ability to assimilate corrections and verbal information in such a way that the body continues to move with more clarity
- Generate a written response to a dance performance
- 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 **FOUR** class periods will lower the student's course grade by **5%**. 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. 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 **COMPLETE AN OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE TWO CLASS PERIODS FROM THE CLASS 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.

- **CLASSROOM DRESS** – Please come ready to move. 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? The more I can see of your body, the better I can help you grow as a dancer.
- **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.

### **GRADING/EVALUATION:**

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

In General:

- **A** = Consistently demonstrates generous, thoughtful, curious involvement in classroom material. Quick to gain and demonstrate an understanding of the material presented daily. Displays extraordinary improvement. Expresses the ability to take and make corrections. Overall exemplary performance of course objectives **(100-90)**
- **B** = Consistently involved in classroom material. Demonstrates ability to gain and understand the material presented daily. Displays average improvement. Expresses willingness to take and make corrections. Overall above average performance of course objectives **(89-80)**
- **C** = Inconsistent involvement in classroom material. Occasionally demonstrates an understanding of the material presented daily. Displays minimal improvement. Has difficulty with corrections. Average performance of course objectives **(79-70)**

- **D** = Fails to participate in classroom material. Does not demonstrate or gain an understanding of material presented daily. No improvement due to lack of concentrated effort. Fails/unwilling to take corrections. Below average performance of course objectives **(69-60)**
- **F** = Inability to keep up with class work due to excessive absences **(<60)**

### **ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Active Participation (40%)
  - Positive attitude in class
  - Displays commitment and effort towards the art form
  - Mentally present throughout class
  - Demonstrate a willingness to improve and change
- Performance (40%)
  - Displays an ability to retain and implement corrections
  - Shows an understanding of concepts
  - Ability to master and execute steps
- Written Review (10%)
  - See handout for assignment details
  - Due no later than May 4th at 4:00 pm
- Non-Majors Workshop Performance (10%)

### **SHSU Academic Policies and Procedures**

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see Dean of Student's Office.

**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.

#### **VISITORS IN 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.

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

#### STUDENT ABSENCES ON 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.