



SYLLABUS: Dance Composition II
DANC 5378
Spring 2018
Meeting Time: Tues/Thurs 11:00 – 12:20
PAC 250

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 graduate level choreography class will examine various approaches to the creative process. A large emphasis will be placed on developing and articulating a unique choreographic voice that is capable of expressing emotions and ideas.

The primary goal of this class is to assist students in developing a clear point of view in their choreographic work. The themes of the assignments will range from personal to social to political with each project investigating meaning making in choreography and directing. Students will develop an artistic statement throughout the semester and by the end of the course should be able to speak with authority regarding their choreographic view. In-class discussions and assignments will aide in the learning process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Investigate the communicative properties of movement
- Explore various methods of movement invention
- Build choreographic form and structure as a means of expression
- Examine various strategies for problem solving
- Direct and manage dancers through the creative process
- Develop leadership and directing skills
- Create a proposal that outlines a clear choreographic intention
- Produce three finished works
- Articulate and defend creative concepts

COURSE POLICIES:

- **CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE** – Attendance in all dance classes is crucial, therefore only **three** absences are allowed during the semester. Upon the fourth absence, the student's overall grade will be lowered by 5 points. Each subsequent absence thereafter will cost the student 5 additional points off of their grade. Students are responsible for any missed material.
 - *Note:* If injury/illness continues for an extended period of time, please get in touch with me immediately so that we may arrange an alternate plan of action. It is solely the responsibility of the student to communicate and arrange alternate work.
- Absences for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation before the absences occurs and presents official documentation. Professional opportunities will be assessed at half an absence. All other absences count toward the total of three.
- **TARDINESS** – Tardiness is prohibited.
- **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:

Outlined below are the questions I will be asking you throughout this course that will define your grade:

- **INVESTMENT** – Did you fully commit to the assignment and take feedback constructively?
- **MOVEMENT INVENTION** – Is the movement material original and unique, or generic and obvious?
- **FORM** – Does the dance have a clear beginning, middle and end that is well constructed and serves the piece?
- **RISK TAKING** – Are you stepping outside of your creative comfort zone and trying something new.
- **INTENTION** – Does the dance express a clear idea or emotion? Is the work grounded in a specific exploration?
- **COMMUNICATION** – Can you articulate and defend your choreographic choices?

This course is based on the following 100-point accumulation system:		Grading Scale	
1. Choreographer Review (Social)	15pts	100-93	A
2. Choreographer Review (Political)	15pts	92-83	B
3. Journal	10pts	82-70	C
4. 3 Choreographic Projects (15pts each)	45pts	69-60	D
5. Classroom Participation	15pts	<60	F

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Choreographer Review – Social (15pts)** For this assignment, your research will include searching for choreographers that explore social themes in their work. Since this paper is in preparation for your own choreographic assignment exploring social themes you should look for artists that are inspiring and wide ranging in their approaches to their work. The purpose of this assignment is to inform you of the work that has been inspired by societal issues and to hopefully inspire a starting point for your project. Finally, provide a two-three typed, double spaced paper about one of the artists you researched focusing on their “social” inspired work.
- **Choreographer Review – Political (15pts)** This assignment is a mirror image of the assignment above except that for this assignment you will research artists that create “politically” inspired work.
- **Journal (10pts)**– The student is expected to bring a journal with them to every class period. This journal should be utilized as a tool for brainstorming, taking notes on classroom happenings and writing down comments and critiques regarding shared work. To receive credit for keeping a journal the student will turn in the journal at the end of the semester. Journals will be available for the student to pick up after the instructor has viewed them.
- **Three Choreographic Works (15pts each – 45 total)** will be completed throughout the semester based on various assignments given by the instructor. The assignment details and exacts due dates are to be announced during the class progression.
- **Class Participation (15pts)** – Students are expected to demonstrate genuine interest, dedication, and investment in class material. Aside from completing one’s own assignments, students should be supportive of other student work and be prepared to share observations and feedback regarding student work presented in class. It is expected that students are consistent, concentrated, punctual, motivated and willing to take risks.
 - o This semester, the class will participate in National Water Dance Day as a special opportunity that only occurs every other year. From the National Water Dance website:

National Water Dance (NWD) is a collective of dance artists and educators. Stretching from coast to coast and from Alaska to Florida we are creating a “movement choir”, a simultaneous, site-specific performance of dancers and movers of all ages and experience, to bring attention to the pressing issues of water in the United States. National Water Dance believes that our environment is the most urgent issue of this generation and that artists need to take the lead in addressing it. As dancers, we want to use our bodies to create a community that cries out for action.

Grad Choreography will join forces with MOD, NobleMotion Dance and NMD2 to create a movement choir to represent SHSU in National Water Dance Day that is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. Additional details regarding our involvement and the collaborative elements of the project will be discussed throughout the semester in preparation for this exciting event.

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. 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.