Department of Kinesiology and Health Science/Dance Program
CRN 12168, DAN 300.001
Fall 2012

Instructor: Heather Samuelson
Office: A-101
Office Phone: (936) 468-6808
Other Contact Information: (936) 468-3503

Course Time & Location: MW 1-2:15, HPE 201
Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:30
Credits: 2
Email: Samuelsoh@sfasu.edu

Prerequisites:
4 hours of dance technique.

Co-requisite:
Regular attendance in a level II technique class.

I. Course Description:
Improvisation and Composition is a physical and intellectual course in which the students will learn the
basic skills needed to create choreography. This course is an advanced course in which the students involved are
dance majors and minors; having advanced movement skills and background in dance technique to which they may
apply to choreographic projects. The students main focus is on movement exploration through improvisation,
composition with emphasis on spatial design, rhythmic and dynamic structure.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):
These goals support and reflect the College of Education’s Vision, Mission, and Core Values in that they equip
those candidates seeking “to achieve professional excellence” with the knowledge, skills, and disposition that
“prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership,
and continued professional and intellectual development”. This course supports the Dance Program Mission
Statement related to achieving a high level of creative potential.

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will be able to use visual stimulation, text, and site-specific surroundings as means for
   inspiration when creating choreography.
2. The student will be able to exhibit advanced motor skills and muscle memory in their creation and
   performance of choreography.
3. The student will be able to articulate proper use of terminology, in conjunction with journal entries, during
   the choreographic process, in and out of the classroom.
4. The student will be able to demonstrate choreographed projects to different rhythms, dynamics, and accents
   found in music or choreographed ambient sounds.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. To learn the fundamentals of creating substantial choreography for performance purposes.
2. To learn the proper language and terminology needed to create choreography on ones self or on a group.
3. To learn how to choreograph while maintaining ones self and style through movement, inspiration, and
   technique.
4. To develop musicality, spatial and rhythmic awareness while choreographing, and dancing to improve
   movement memory.
5. To gain an appreciation for art and how it is created.
III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:

The students will be required to create a number of choreographic projects based on stimulating activities learned throughout the semester. Approaching each choreographic assignment, the students will journal their process, keeping record of where their motivation came from, how the process matures, the outcome of the process, and these journals are to be turned in at the midterm and final exam. The students will be given partner work to better understand the choreographic process on how to create choreography for group pieces. Each choreographic project will contain aspects of research, tangible objects, text, and site-specific settings to better engage each student in their journey through choreographing substantial work. The students are encouraged to use technology such as Youtube and DVD to observe substantial choreography in an effort to create personal, creative work. The students will also host the Danceworks concert the week of November 13-19, as partial fulfillment of their final grade.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

Choreographing dance is an art form that must be practiced daily for mastery. Students are expected to fully participate in each class. It is recommended that any student who is ill should attempt to attend class unless they are contagious or confined to a bed. Any student who opts to observe and not participate will receive partial credit for that class. Class observation gives the students a good learning opportunity to listen to explanations and corrections the instructor has given out. Lack of participation for any sustained period of time due to illness or injury may result in the possibility of dropping out of the class entirely. Daily participation means committing to the class and is worth a considerable amount of a student’s final grade.

Grading Percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or lower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily Participation:

For each class, the students have the opportunity to earn a total of 10 points by being on time, wearing the proper attire, showing a positive attitude, having material ready, keeping up with their journal entries, and giving 100% effort. Students will lose points for being late or leaving early, not wearing proper attire, slacking off, having a bad attitude or being rude or disrespectful, and not having journals entered and ready. As stated before, a student who observes class will only earn partial points. No points can be earned if the student is absent.

Choreographic Projects:

Periodically throughout the semester, the students will be given instructions on specific choreographic projects and how to create them. These projects will include material discussed in class per each stage of the students’ choreographic journey. These projects are video taped and are available for viewing upon a scheduled request. Each choreographic project will be graded on time (duration of material), content (consistency with classroom instruction), memory, use of space, and ability to make clear the theme of the project.

Midterm and Final:

The Midterm will consist of a choreographed piece which will include all elements learned up to the mid semester point. The choreography journal of each student is also submitted on this date. The midterm will not exceed 5 minutes per student and can be no less than 2 minutes. The midterm is also video taped and available for viewing upon scheduled request. The Final is similar to the midterm, in that it will cover all elements learned throughout the entire semester and will be set in a site specific location; being no less than 5 minutes long. The final is also video taped and available for viewing upon scheduled request. The students’ journal is also submitted on this date. As part of the final grade, each student will also attend the Danceworks Concert on November 15-18, observe one dance and write a critique over the content, costuming, lighting, and atmosphere. This paper is to be 3 pages long, double-spaced, with the course name, instructor, date of concert and title in the top left corner. This paper cannot be made up by an alternative assignment.

Make-Up Policy:

Exams and choreographic projects will not be accepted late and cannot be made up, unless accompanied by a doctor’s note. Written assignments or journals will be accepted late, however 1 letter grade will be deducted for
each day the assignment is late. If the student is in good standing, absences can be made up by other assignments at
the instructor’s discretion.

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

Week 1&2
Syllabus
Chapters 5 & 9 over Space and Abstraction
Begin researching “name” project

Week 3&4
Cont. Space and Abstraction
10/12 “Name” project due
Chapter 6 over Time
10/19 Begin “Object” project

Week 5&6
Cont. Time and “Object” project
11/3 “Object” project due

Week 7
Prepare for midterm

Week 8&9
10/15 Written Midterm
10/17 Midterm “Car”
JOURNALS DUE
10/22 Chapter 7 over Energy/Force & LMA
Begin “Text/Vocal” project

Week 10&11
Compositional Structures and cont. “Text” project
11/7 “Text” project due

Week 12&13
Choreographic Devices
Begin Site-Specific project
11/19 Tour campus for site specific locations
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14&15
12/5 Site specific Final
12/10 Written Final
JOURNALS DUE
HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY!!

Tentative Danceworks Schedule
Sunday Nov. 11- Load in of lights and Marley floor.
Monday Nov. 12- Light tech only.
Tuesday Nov. 13- Concert run with costumes, no hair, no makeup.
Wednesday Nov. 14- Dress Rehearsal with costumes, hair, and makeup.
Thursday Nov. 15- Performance in the evening.
Friday Nov. 16- Performance in the evening.
Saturday Nov. 17- Performance in the Afternoon.
Sunday Nov. 18- Performance in the Afternoon and STRIKE!
VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):


Required Attire:
Women: Black leotard, tights (pink or black), no shoes. You may wear jazz pants or hot shorts.
Men: White T-shirt, jazz pants or knee length shorts, dance belt, no shoes.
Hair should be pulled up and way from the face. This is best for the dancer’s safety and it also helps in the mastery of dance technique and choreography. Please do not wear dangling jewelry and there should be absolutely NO GUM IN CLASS!

Required:
LiveText account, ISBN# 978-0-979-6635-4-3. This may be purchased at the bookstore or purchased online at www.livetext.com. Once you have purchased the account, you must activate your account at www.livetext.com. If you have purchased LiveText in another course, you will NOT need to buy a second account. NOTE: If you plan to use financial aid to purchase this account, you must make the purchase by the date set by financial aid.

VII. Course Evaluations:

“Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the COE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including: 1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; 2. Instruction evaluation purposes’ and 3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!”

In the College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:

Attendance: Each student is allowed to miss 2 individual classes for any reason, i.e., sick, tired, skipping, sleeping, traveling. Each additional absence, after the initial 2, will drop the student’s final grade by 1 full letter grade. For example: 3 absences = B, 4 absences = C, 5 absences = D. Any student who has 6 absences or more will result in an automatic failing grade and will not pass the class. An absence will be excused if the student notifies the instructor when late and when the student presents a doctor’s note the next class day that he/she is ok to return to class. Doctor’s notes will not be accepted at the end of the week, month, or semester if the student has already returned to class and forgot to bring the doctor’s note. Points will be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. If the student is tardy, they will be counted absent! Attendance will be strictly enforced. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track or their number of absences. The student may ask the instructor on the amount of absences accrued, but please do this at the end of class.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:
1. Please be on time. It is considered disrespectful to walk into a dance class late. If the student is tardy, he/she should first ask the instructor for permission to join class.
2. Please no cell phones in the dance studio while class is in session. Cell phones can be very distracting and annoying.
3. Please no food or drink in any of the dance studios. Please help keep the dance space clean and bug free! Bottled water is acceptable. Please pick up after yourself and throw away any trash you might bring into the dance space. ABSOLUTELY NO GUM!
4. Be respectful of others. This is a place of learning and once you step into the studio, you are all on the same level. Be positive with yourself and with others. This should be a safe place for you to grow as a choreographer/dancer and to feel comfortable with yourself.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilitieservices/.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the WH is assigned, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education, you will be required to:

1. Undergo criminal background checks for field or clinical experiences on public school campuses; the public school campuses are responsible for the criminal background check; YOU are responsible for
completing the information form requesting the criminal background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may not be allowed to complete field or clinical experiences on public school campuses. At that point, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, drivers license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/ <http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/>). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

**LiveText**
LiveText is the data management system used by the Perkins College of Education (PCOE) for program improvement and to assess and monitor compliance to national accreditation standards. All Perkins College of Education majors and Secondary Education students are required to purchase a LiveText account, either through the University Bookstore or at www.livetext.com. This is a ONE-TIME purchase, and the account will be used throughout your undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral program of study. Required program assignments, designated by instructors and program coordinators, must be submitted within your LiveText account. Successful completion of this course and your degree requirements are dependent on the submission of all required LiveText assignments.

**IX. Other Relevant Course Information:**