Instructor: Sarah Sanchez  
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Course Time & Location: F 1-2:15; HPE 201  
Office Hours: TTR 9:30-12pm  
Credits: 1  
Email: Sanchezs12@sfasu.edu

Prerequisites: None

I. Course Description:
Dance Improvisation is a physical class in which the students will learn the basic approaches to movement initiation, generation, and structured improvisation. This course is geared toward dancers with little or no knowledge of improvisation.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:
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 dispositions 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 identify and execute intermediate/advanced level ballet, modern, and jazz dance techniques. (Active)
2. The student will be able to identify and apply production values necessary for concert dance, including lighting, sound, costuming, and publicity. (Active)
3. The student will be able to identify, distinguish and apply the variety of choreographic devices, structures, and forms used in contemporary concert dance. (Active)
4. The student will be able to identify concepts of dance kinesiology to performance and analysis of dance movement. (Active)
5. The student will be able to identify variations in rhythmic patterns and elements of music such as accents, beats, phrasing, as applied to dance movement. (Active)

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Recognize and exhibit dance class etiquette such as spatial awareness, active listening, personal responsibility, commitment to the practice, and respect for the larger community of dance.
2. Articulate & demonstrate the fundamentals of free movement generation and movement qualities.
3. Utilize both class and self-observations & corrections as a tool for enhancing the student’s perspective on improvising.
4. Demonstrate confidence in improvising alone or with a group.
5. To gain an appreciation for the art of dance.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, and use of Technology:

Students will improvise alone, in pairs, trios and in large groups moving through instructor-led exercises and techniques. Students will observe their classmates and analyze movement signatures, habits, provide compliments and offer constructive criticism. Students will keep a tangible notebook to write in after each class, documenting the day’s exercises and personal reflections. Readings and videos will be assigned; students will write a full page response for each.

As partial fulfillment of their final grade, the student will attend the Danceworks Concert on November 15th, 16th or 17th and write a 2-page paper. *This is mandatory, not optional, so make arrangements with employers, evening classes, exams, and University activities well in advance.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

Participation:

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 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 dropping of the course entirely. Daily participation means committing to the class and is worth a considerable amount of the student’s final grade. All students taking a dance technique class are required to perform in the Informal Dance Concert at the end of the semester showing their classmates a routine they have mastered. Failure to attend will drastically affect the student’s participation grade.

Grading Percentages: Grading Scale:

- Participation 25%  100-90 = A
- Critique Paper 15%  89-80 = B
- Journal 20%  79-70 = C
- Video & Reading Responses 20%  69-60 = D
- Final-Informal Concert 20%  59 or lower = F

Daily Participation Grading:

For each class, the student has the opportunity to earn a total of 10 points by being on time, wearing the proper attire, showing a positive attitude, and giving 100% effort. Students will lose points for being late, or leaving early, not wearing proper dance attire, slacking off, having a bad attitude, or being rude or disrespectful. As stated before, a student who observes class will only earn partial points. No points can be earned if the student is absent. Students have the opportunity to earn 5 points by attending the campus production of Oklahoma on November 6th, 7th, 8th,
9th, or 10th. Students may earn an additional 5 points by writing a 2-page paper over the dance sequences in the show. Extra Credit will be due on November 26th by midnight through D2L dropbox. To show proof of attendance, students will need to take a photo of their ticket stub.

Critique Paper:
Students are required to attend Danceworks Concert on November 15th, 16th or 17th located in HPE Dance Studio 201 at 7:00pm. Students will write a 2 page paper analyzing one-three pieces of work. Guidelines will be listed in D2L.

Journal:
Students will keep a notebook to log each class day’s lesson, exercises, personal reflections, and physical homework assignments. Students will complete the physical improv assignment and write their experience of completing it. Journals will be picked up at the end of the semester for a grade. Every class day and Assignment Reflection must be present. Points will be deducted for each missing entry. Each entry is a pass fail completion grade.

Video & Reading Responses:
Several videos and readings over Improvisation history, choreographers, and performances, and events will be assigned. Students will write a 1 page response for each. Each paper will be 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1” margins. This is a pass or fail completion grade. Each assignment must be turned in to the D2L dropbox by 8am of the assigned due date.

Final Exam:
Students will collectively perform a 5-8 minute structured improved score at the Informal Concert on December 5th at 4:30pm. Students must fully participate. Failure to show to this concert will result in a zero for their final grade.

Make-Up Policy:
Journals, assignments, papers and performances CANNOT be late or made up.

V. Tentative Course Calendar:
Week 1
8/31 Syllabus & Introduction day, Icebreakers/ Reading 1 assigned
Week 2
9/7 Lecture & Discussion: Form/Content/Reading 1 response due/Video 1 assigned
Week 3
9/14 Lecture & Discussion: The Body’s Voice/ Video 1 response due/Reading 2 assigned
Week
9/21 Lecture & Discussion: A Way to Proceed: Body, Imagination, Memory/Reading 2 response due/Video 2 assigned
Week 5
9/28 Lecture & Discussion: Composition/Video 2 response due/Reading 3 assigned
Week 6
10/5 Lecture & Discussion: Inner/Outer/Reading 3 due/Video 3 assigned

Week 7
10/12 Video 3 response due/NO CLASS-I will be out of town: Reading 4 Assignment on D2L under “Reading 4 Oct 12 Assignment” and write a full page response.

Week 8
10/19 Lecture & Discussion: Pretend to Pretend & The Body of Language/Reading 4 response due/Video 4 assigned

Week 9
10/26 Lecture & Discussion: Transformation/Video 4 response due/Reading 5 assigned

Week 10
11/2 Lecture & Discussion: Imagination/Reading 5 response due/Video 5 assigned

Week 11
11/6-11/10 Oklahoma Performance at Turner Auditorium
11/9 Site-Specific outside day-wear tennis shoes./Video 5 response due

Week 12
11/16 Lecture & Discussion: The Watcher and the Watched/ Learn Informal Piece
*11/15-17 Attend Danceworks Concert in HPE for Critique Paper
*11/17-23 Thanksgiving Break-No class

Week 13
11/26 Extra Credit paper due by midnight
11/30 Lecture & Discussion: Response & The Scene/Review Informal Piece
*Danceworks Critique Paper due by midnight

Week 14
12/5 4:30pm Informal Concert.
12/7 Improv Jam- Turn in Journal

*Tentative Schedule. All dates are subject to change

VI. Recommended Reading:

Required Attire:
Students must wear fitted comfortable dancewear. No shoes or dangling jewelry. Students must be able to execute a grande plie and downward facing dog position without restriction.

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 the class and forgot to bring the doctor’s note. Points will be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. For every 3 tardies, the student will receive 1 absence! Attendance will be strictly enforced. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their number of absences. The student may ask the instructor on the amount of absences accrued, but please do this at the end of the class or during office hours.

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. If the warm-up is missed, the student may stay and observe the rest of the 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 dancer and to feel comfortable with yourself.

Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6

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, 936-468-3004/468-1004 (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/disability services/.

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:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- 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 one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

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

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Student Appeals
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy 5.5
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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 they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will
automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**
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. 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 policy 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 iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.