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, costinguming, 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:
   The student will be required to participate in a complete movement sequence as follows, warm up conditioning, center floor, across the floor, and final dance combinations. The student will be given activities that include partner work to better understand the dancer body, fundamentals, vocabulary, and principles of Jazz dance such as isolations, footwork, slides, squares, walks, turns, jumps, leaps and battements in which the student will learn through repetition, and activities that incorporate the knowledge of meter and time for musicality purposes. The student is not required, but encouraged, to use technology in the attempt to learn Improvisation but to use technology to gain a better understanding and appreciation toward dance as an art form. As partial fulfillment of their final grade, the student will attend the Danceworks Concert- April 19th -21st *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.**

   Journal:
   Students will keep a journal to log lessons, activities, and free-writing reflections. A journal entry must be made after every class in addition to any journal assignment given during class. Journals will be picked up at the end of the semester for a grade. 2 points will be deducted for every missing journal entry. Journals are a part of the daily participation grade.

   Recordings:
   Students will be recording themselves improvising following a set score given in the prior class. All recordings will be submitted through Remind 101 app to be viewed by the instructor and students. Recordings serve as a tool for the student to view their natural movement habits and growth as they learn new concepts and approaches. All recordings must be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes. If videos are longer, they will need to be uploaded to youtube or vimeo, and provide a link to the video on Remind 101. More details will be given in class.
Responses:
Online video or take-home readings will be viewed on D2L for homework; responses will be assigned over each. A one 200-word, double-spaced paper will be written in response to the video or reading and turned in to D2L on the assigned due dates by 8:00 a.m. Students will communicate dance elements, function, meaning, personal emotions and questions they receive from the choreography. More instruction will be given on the first week of class. This assignment will build to prepare students for the critique paper.

Critique Paper:
The student will write a 2 page paper over the Danceworks Concert on April 19th, 20th or 21st as partial fulfillment of their final grade. Paper will be in MLA format, 12 point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and title page as first page. Title page specifics and paper guidelines will be provided on D2L.

Midterm:
Students will be given a set improvisational score to follow. They will perform their score in groups of 3 in front of the class. Students will be graded on memory, commitment, attitude, range, and creativity. Midterm will be recorded for grading purposes. If the midterm is missed, the student cannot make it up, unless the absence was previously excused.

Final:
Attendance and participation in the Informal Performance on May 2nd from 4-6pm is required and will be counted as the student’s final exam grade. Students will perform one improvisational score all together executing skills and tools learned in the class. Family and friends are invited to attend this free performance. All dance technique classes and levels are required to perform in this show. Students must request off from work and outside academic classes ahead of time. Failure to attend will result in an automatic zero for the Final exam grade.

Make-Up Policy:
Exams and skills tests will not be accepted late and cannot be made up. If the student is in good standing with the instructor, absences can be made up by other assignments at the instructor’s discretion.

Grading Percentages: Grading Scale:
Daily Participation: 20% 100-90 = A
Video Recordings: 10% 89-80 = B
Responses: 10% 79-70 = C
Dance Critique: 10% 69-60 = D
Midterm Performance: 20% 59 or lower = F
Final Performance: 20%

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 will need to sit out and not be able to participate in the class. An absence will be counted for every three sit-outs.
2. Please no cell phones in the dance studio while class is in session. Cell phones are to be left in the lobby and on silent.
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, sweatproof bottle or any bottle with a towel for the bottom.
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.

V. Tentative Course Calendar:

**Week 1**
1/19 Introduction & Syllabus/ Day 1 Concept: Form & Content/ Response #1 assigned/Video Recording #1 assigned

**Week 2**
1/24 Video Recording #1 due by midnight
1/26 Response #1 due by 8am, Day 2 Concept: The Body’s voice, Response #2 assigned, Video Recording #2 assigned

**Week 3**
2/1 Video Recording #3 due by midnight
2/2 Response #3 due by 8am/Day 3 Concept: A Way to Proceed: Body, Imagination, Memory/Video Recording #3 assigned/Response #3 assigned

**Week 4**
2/7 Video Recording #4 due by midnight
2/9 Response #4 due by 8am/Day 4 Concept: Composition/Response #5 assigned/ Video Recording #5 assigned

**Week 5**
2/15 Video Recording #5 due by midnight
2/16 Response #5 due by 8am/Day 5 Concept: Inner/Outer/ Video Recording
#6 assigned/Response #6 assigned

Week 6
2/21 Video Recording #6 due by midnight
2/23 Response #6 due by 8am/Day 6 Concept: Pretend to Pretend/Video Recording #7 assigned/Response #7 assigned

Week 7
2/28 Video Recording #7 due
3/2 Response #7 due by 8am/Day 7 Concept: The Body of Language
Discuss Midterm Improvisation Score, Assign Groups & Show Order

Week 8
3/9 Midterm Showings

Week 9

Week 10
3/23 Day 8 Concept: Transformation/Response #8 assigned

Week 11
3/30 EASTER HOLIDAY- No class

Week 12
4/6 Day 9 Concept: Imagination/Response #8 due by 8am

Week 13
4/13 Day 10 Concept: The Watcher and the Watched/Recording #8 assigned

Week 14
4/18 Recording #8 due by midnight
4/20 Day 11 Concept: Response

Week 15
4/27 Day 14 Concept: Beyond Self/Big Awareness/Rehearse Informal Concert Improv Score

Week 16
5/2 Final critique paper due today on D2L by midnight, INFORMAL CONCERT 4-6pm
5/4 Day 15 Concept: Freedom & Day 16 Concept: Relationship Final class day- Turn in Journal

Week 17
? Day 17 Practice & Improv Jam; Date and time TBA (optional)

*Tentative Schedule. All dates are subject to change

VI. REQUIRED READING
No textbook is required. All material will be available on D2L.

Required Attire:
Everyone needs to be in form fitting attire that they are able to dance comfortably in. Students should not be restricted in any way. No shoes; students will be dancing barefoot the majority of the time. Socks will be allowed at specific times. Kneepads are recommended for floorwork, not required. No dangling jewelry on ears, wrists, ankles, or neck. Studs are acceptable. No gum chewing. Hair needs to be pulled back away from face. Once hair is up, no adjustments or alterations should be made during class.
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:
https://www.sfasu.edu/policies

_____ Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

_____ Academic Accommodation for 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 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/disabilityservices/.

_____ Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

**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; and/or;
- 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; and/or,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

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: 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 https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.

Additional Information:
To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, 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, driver’s license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at www.texes.ets.org/registrationBulletin/ <http://www.texes.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.

For further information concerning this matter, contact Katie Snyder 936-468-1740 or snyderke1@sfasu.edu.

IX. Other Relevant Course Information: