Stephen F. Austin State University  
School of Theatre and Dance, Dance Program  
CRN 19665, DANC 3221 Choreography for Dance Teams I  
Fall 2023

Instructor: T.J. Maple  
Course time and Location: MWF 8:00-8:50  
Office: BPSC 2.402  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only  
Office Phone: 468-1627  
Department Phone: 468-4003  
Credits: 2  
Email: maplejvfsasu.edu

Prerequisites:  
None

I. Course Description:

Choreography for Dance Teams is a physical and intellectual course in which the students will learn the basic skills needed to create dance team 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 composition with emphasis on spatial design, group work and sequencing.

Students should expect a response to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours from their contact efforts. This is only available Monday through Friday.

Course Justification:

Choreography for Dance Teams (2 credits) meets a minimum of 5 hours over 8 weeks. The remainder of class time will be online. Course assessments are both theoretical and practical. Students are assessed through a series of projects that combine creativity with elements to create numerous pieces of dance team choreography. Students will be required to research these topics, utilize outside of class time in addition to class meetings.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):

These goals support and reflect the Dance Program’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. Dance Technique The student will be able to execute intermediate/advanced level ballet, modern dance and jazz dance techniques. (Active)

2. Dance Production The student will be able to identify and apply production values necessary for concert dance, including lighting, sound, costuming, and publicity. (Active)

3. Choreography 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. Dance Kinesiology The student will be able to apply concepts of dance kinesiology to performance and analysis of dance movement. (Active)

5. Rhythmic Analysis The student will be able to identify variations in rhythmic patterns and elements of music such as accents, beats, and phrasing as applied to dance movement. (Active)

6. Dance History The student will identify and discuss seminal works in the development of Western theatrical dance. (Active)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate choreographic principles such as motif, theme and variation, use of space, time, and energy, positive/negative space through creation of solo and duet movement studies.

2. To learn the proper language and terminology needed to create choreography on one’s self or on a peer (PLO 6).

3. Edit, refine, embellish and amplify movement content while maintaining personal movement style, inspiration, and technique (PLO 1,4).

4. Develop musicality, spatial and rhythmic awareness while choreographing, and dancing to improve movement memory and personal style (PLO 5).

5. Distinguish the responsibilities of choreographer and dancer in the symbiotic relationship.

For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes, see the assessment resource page http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp.
III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:

The students will be required to create a number of choreographic projects/routines based on dance team styles throughout the semester. All styles will be observed and compared/contrasted for choreographic choices. The students are encouraged to use technology such as Youtube and DVD to observe substantial choreography in an effort to create personal, creative work.

Injury/Accident Statement:
This course contains physical activity which may consist of but not limited to running, jumping, lifting, throwing, leaping, striking, etc. Participation in these activities comes with inherent risks of injury. Possible injuries include, but are not limited to heat stroke, strains, sprains, scrapes, bruises, and fractures. By registering and participating in this course, students are aware of the possible injuries that may occur and acknowledge that they participate at their own risk. The university is not responsible for any medical costs associated with any injury students may sustain; therefore, students are strongly recommended to procure personal health and accident insurance to cover any medical costs. Students are encouraged to notify the instructor of any relevant prior medical history regarding injuries, surgeries, medications, or other considerations which may affect or impair participation in this course. If necessary, students will provide, upon request, a physician’s statement clearing them to participate in this course.

Procedures to be Followed for Injury or Accident of a SFA Student:
1. Administer appropriate first aid.
2. For a major medical emergency, a phone call should be placed to the University Police Department (UPD)(911). UPD will report to the scene of a medical emergency, assist with first aid, and contact an ambulance service.
3. Students may choose to report directly to the Student Health Services for minor first aid needs or routine medical services.
4. If assistance is needed in transporting the injured student, call the UPD non-emergency phone number at 936-468-2608.
5. The instructor should complete an accident report which can be obtained from the department office.

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. 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:
Active Participation/Attendance/Reflections 15% (150 pts)
Pom Choreographic Project #1 10% (50 pts)
Pom Choreographic Project #2 10% (50 pts)
Jazz Choreographic Project #1 10% (50 pts)
Jazz Choreographic Project #1 10% (50 pts)
Final Choreographic Project Portfolio 20% (100 pts)

Grading Scale:
100-90 = A
89-80 = B
79-70 = C
69-60 = D
59 or lower = F

Point Scale:
A = 405-450 Points
B = 360-404 Points
C = 315-359 Points
D = 270-314 Points
F = 269 or fewer Points

Choreographic Projects:
At the beginning of 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. Each choreographic project will be graded on use of space, dynamics created through levels, layers, opposition and group work. Projects will include a scenario with team size to implement formations and formation changes.

Final:
The Final project will consist of a video utilizing 2 of the 4 choreographic works or previous projects. Instructions given and will include the following criteria: filming counts to the front, counts to the back and a front view of the pieces with music.

Make-Up Policy:
Choreographic projects will not be accepted late and cannot be made up, unless accompanied by a doctor’s note. 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:
August 28, 2023
Syllabus & Introduction

August 30, 2023
Pom Choreography – Pep Rally/Performance

September 8, 2023
Pom Project 1 Due – Pom Choreography – Competition
September 22, 2023
Pom Project 2 Due – Jazz Choreography – Pep Rally/Performance

September 29, 2023
Jazz Project 1 Due – Jazz Choreography – Competition

October 9, 2023
Jazz Project #2 Due

October 13, 2023
Final Choreographic Portfolio Due

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, assuming the student currently holds an “A” in the course: 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.
VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):

**A Guide to Teaching, Training and Directing Dance/Drill Teams by: Susan Angell-Gonzalez**  
ISBN: 9781649995407

**Required Attire:**  
Women: Black leotard and black leggings for project filming.  
Men: Black T-shirt, black leggings or knee length shorts, dance belt for project filming.  
Hair should be pulled up and away 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!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment/Assessment</th>
<th>CAEP/AAHE</th>
<th>TEA</th>
<th>ISTE</th>
<th>InTasc</th>
<th>NDA/SHAPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1k, 1.2k, 1.3k, 2.2k, 2.3k, 2.10k, 2.11k</td>
<td>1c, 2b</td>
<td>1a, 1b, 2c, 4a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.6k, 1.7k, 1.8k, 1.9k, 2.2k, 2.3k, 2.10k, 2.11k</td>
<td>1c, 2b</td>
<td>1a, 1b, 2c, 4a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.6k, 1.7k, 1.8k, 1.9k, 2.2k, 2.3k, 2.10k, 2.11k, 1.6s</td>
<td>1c, 2b</td>
<td>1a, 1b, 2c, 4a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critique</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.7k, 1.8k, 1.9k, 3.8s, 3.9s, 3.13s</td>
<td>3g, 5i</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal/Reflections</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.1k, 1.2k, 1.11s, 2.2k, 5.5k</td>
<td>1c, 2a</td>
<td>3m, 5c, 6i, 6q</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VII. Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students will electronically evaluate courses taken within the MECFA, through MySFA. 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 MECFA faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/, https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf (Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity)

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 (including the first 12 day attendance report) 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, 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. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.
**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 by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed 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., Military Service Activation (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.

If a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of “WP” or “WH” may be changed to “WF” at the discretion of the faculty member. In the case of a grade change to “WF”, the course will not count towards the six course drop limit since the student is incurring an academic penalty.
**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**

Interference or disruption of students, faculty, administration, staff, the educational mission, or routine operations of the university is prohibited. Such activity includes, but is not limited to, behavior in a classroom or instructional program that interferes with the instructor or presenter’s ability to conduct the class or program, or the ability of others to profit from the class or program. To remain in the vicinity of activity that is disrupting normal university functions when requested to leave by a university official is prohibited. Bystanders, if their presence incites or adds to the disruption, as well as more active participants in the disruptive activity, may be in violation of this policy as well. Engaging in physical violence of any nature against any person. This includes fighting; assaulting; battering; using a knife, gun, or other weapon; or acting in a manner that threatens or endangers the physical health or safety of any person or causes a reasonable apprehension of such harm.

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 at SFA.

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services  
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Additional Information:**

**Code of Ethics for the Texas Educator:**

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with
parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification.


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

1. Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person’s potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual’s self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a non-refundable fee. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification. You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

- You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
- You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
- You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation. Additional information can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/.

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 http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html. 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, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at 936-468-1282 or edprep@sfasu.edu.

IX. Other Relevant Course Information:

Classroom Etiquette

Cleaning protocols should be performed before/after each class and rehearsal. Supplies can be found in the storage closet.

1. To create a clean flow of traffic, please enter the studio through the main door and wait for classes to finish before entering. Walking into a classroom before it is finished is disrespectful.
2. Do not loiter in the hallways or faculty offices. There are study rooms available, designated lounge areas in the lobby, or you can enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces on campus.
3. Disinfecting wipes will be used to clean the ballet barres. 2-4 dancers need to clean the barres before/after each class and rehearsal regardless if they were used or not.
4. Disinfecting spray or wipes will be used to clean ALL door handles, inside and out, and light switches. 2 dancers are needed for this task.
5. 2 dancers will sweep the dance studio floor using the push brooms. The debris will be thrown away in the dance studio trash can.
6. Equipment in the conditioning room is only to be wiped down with the cleaning solutions, in the spray bottles, in the storage cabinet located in the conditioning room. Any other chemicals can damage the equipment.
7. The last class or rehearsal in the space is responsible for throwing away the trash. 1-2 dancers are need to remove the trash from the studio/ conditioning room and throw it away in the dumpster.

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.