Instructor: Jessica Thomas  
Course Time/Location: TR 4-7 pm, GFNA 325

Office: 305  
Office Hours: MW 10-11am, 2:30-4pm

Office Phone: 936-468-1885  
Credits: 2

Department Phone: 936-468-3503  
Email: jessica.thomas@sfasu.edu

Prerequisite(s): None

I. Course Description & Justification

Description: This course is designed to provide the advanced dancer with advanced performance techniques, rehearsal, and presentation of professional choreography both on and off campus.

Justification: Repertory Dance Company (2 credit hours) meets 300 minutes per week for 15 weeks. Course assessments are movement combinations to be practiced, memorized, and performed during a variety of presentations and performances. Students are expected to practice combinations between class sessions in assigned locations. This equates to 2-4 hours per week outside of class per credit hour. Students are assessed through the performance of major full-length dance concerts and representation/presentation at regional and national conferences.

All of my class announcements, reminders, and performance/rehearsal schedules are promptly communicated through our D2L email and GroupMe. Please be sure to check your messages here regularly, so I can feel assured that you are clear and on the same page with the class as a whole.

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.

II. Intended 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 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. 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. To gain a broader knowledge and experience in choreographic design. (PLO 2,3,5,6).

2. To develop the ability to critique and analyze a movement composition. (PLO 1,6)

3. To develop individuality in manipulating movement as related to phrasing, abstracting, editing and generating compositional ideas. (PLO 1,3,5).

4. To develop the ability to set movement phrases on more than one dancer and enhance skill in the rehearsal and performance process. (PLO 1,4,5).

5. To make informed decisions related to lighting, sound editing, costuming, set design and publicity. (PLO 2).

6. To provide an opportunity to present original choreography in a concert setting. (PLO 1).

*For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes, see the assessment resource page [http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp.](http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp)*

**III. Course Content**

Throughout this course, the student will be provided with a pre-professional dance company experience. Training with guest artists, choreographers and faculty will enhance this experience, as well as performing in both formal and informal venues. The student will be required to participate in all master classes, give feedback, community service outreach, and, at times, assist in the cleaning process of a piece of choreography. Students will also attend and represent SFA at regional, and possibly national conferences, and assist in the recruitment process for the dance program.

**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 an 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 nonemergency 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):**

This course is graded on a Letter Scale system (A, B, C, D, F). As required of the dance program and University policy, the student must make a “C” or higher to pass the course. Attendance and Participation are the primary grading factors for this course.

**V. Tentative Course Calendar: This is a YEAR-LONG COMMITMENT Fall/Spring**

*Keilea’s research questionnaire, once a month, towards the beginning of the month*

*More events may be added as they arise throughout the semester*

- **January 10-13, 2024** - TDEA Conference (Houston Marriott Marquis)
- **February 12-17, 2024** - Faculty Dance Concert (Turner Auditorium)
- **February 23, 2024** - Diversity Conference/Performance in BPSC, Heather/Duet & Jessica/Quartet
- **March 9-17, 2024** - Spring Break
- **March 22-24, 2024** - ACDA @ UT Austin

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND AT:**
https://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/finalexams-grades/final-exam-schedule

**Class Attendance:**

Each absence, after 2, will drop the student's final grade by 1 full letter grade, assuming each student begins the semester with an A. 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 via email immediately, and presents a
doctor’s note the very next class period that he/she is approved 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. The same consideration will be given for funerals and University sponsored events. Points will be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. If the student is tardy (more than 10 minutes late), they will be counted absent! **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.

**Attendance in dance technique classes will be checked and applied as attendance/participation in the grading of this course. Failure to meet the required attendance policy for any dance technique course may result in the removal, of the student, from a choreographic work. Attendance and participation will be strictly enforced.**

**Rehearsal Attendance:**

**Attendance is Mandatory.** If you have been cast in a piece and accepted that casting, you are committing to that work. If you are released from all of the dances you have been cast in, you will need to drop the class or receive a failing grade. Attendance will be strictly enforced. **While in rehearsals, if you are not being worked with, specifically, it is recommended that you rehearse and go through your personal movement until needed. Do not sit and congregate.**

**Dance Attire:**

**Dancers should dress out in leotards and leggings. Absolutely no mid-drift skin. For guest artists, RDC members are to wear a black leotard and black leggings for the master class and rehearsals. Professionalism is key!**

No baggy clothing! Lines need to be seen; **tight, form-fitting clothing is necessary!**

**Attire/Hair/Nail Policies:**

- Warm-ups are allowed at the beginning of class.
- No dangling jewelry.
- Please remove belly rings, nipple piercings, and anything else that may cause bodily harm while dancing/partnering.
- Fingernails must not be any longer than 1/8th inch. NO POLISH on nails for the run of ALL performances.
- You may wear colorful dance attire for rehearsals, but UNIFORM must be worn for showings & guest artists.
- Costumes for performances are TBA.

**If Attire/Hair/Nail policies are not followed, it will result in the lowering of your GRADE.**

**VI. Required/Recommended Reading:**

None

**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:

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 or ChatGPT;
- 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
www.sfasu.edu/policies

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.
Please go to TAC 247.2 – Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators. This can be found at https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&r l=Y
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.texas.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.