

**DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
DANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Dance Improvisation/ Instructor, Treanna Alexander/ first semester  
Dance Composition/ Instructor, Sandra Fortune Green/ second semester**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Dance Improvisation** is an introduction course for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade dance students. Dance Improvisation will be offered during the first semester. The class is designed to develop imagination and to help the students explore and expand artistic creativity. This course is for .5 carnegie unit.

**Dance Composition** is an introduction to the methods and tools used in composing dances. This course is a required course for all junior dance students, offered in the second semester of the school year, and earns .5 carnegie unit.

**NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN DANCE**

**Content Standard # 1** - Identifying and demonstrating movement, elements and skill in performing dance.

**Achievement Standard:**

- a. accurately demonstrate nonlocomotor/ \*axial movements (such as bend, twist, stretch, swing)
- b. b. accurately demonstrate eight basic \*locomotor movements (such as walk, run, hop, jump, leap, gallop, slide and skip), traveling forward, backward, sideward, diagonally, and turning
- c. create shapes at low, middle, and high \* levels
- d. demonstrate the ability to define and maintain \* personal space
- e. demonstrate movements in straight and curved pathways
- f. demonstrate accuracy in moving to a musical beat and responding to changes in tempo
- g. demonstrate \*kinesthetic awareness, concentration, and focus in performing movement skills
- h. attentively observe and accurately describe the \*action ( such as skip, gallop) and movement elements (such as \*levels, directions) in a brief movement study

## **Content Standard #2**

Understanding choreographic principles, processes, and structures

### **Achievement Standard:**

- a. create a sequence with a beginning, middle, and end, both with and without a rhythmic accompaniment; identify each of these parts of the sequence
- b. improvise, create, and perform dances based on their own ideas and concepts from other sources
- c. use improvisation to discover and invent movement and to solve movement problems
- d. create a dance phrase, accurately repeat it, and then vary it (making changes in the time, space, and/or force/energy)
- e. demonstrate the ability to work effectively alone and with a partner
- f. demonstrate the following partner skills: copying, leading and following, mirroring

## **Content Standard # 3**

Understanding dance as a way to create and communicate meaning

### **Achievement Standard:**

- a. observe and discuss how dance is different from other forms of human movement (such as sports, everyday gestures )
- b. take an active role in a class discussion about interpretations of and reactions to a dance
- c. present their own dances to peers and discuss their meanings with competence and confidence

## **Content Standard # 4**

Applying and demonstrating critical and creative thinking skills in dance

### **Achievement Standard:**

- a. explore, discover, and realize multiple solutions to a given movement problem, choose their favorite solution and discuss the reasons for that choice
- b. observe two dances and discuss how they are similar and different in terms of one of the elements of dance (such as space ) by observing body shapes, levels, pathways

**TEXT FOR DANCE IMPROVISATION (September-January)**

This class does not have textbook requirement for students. However, activities are taken from the following book:

**TEACHING BEGINNING DANCE IMPROVISATION** by Ririe Woodbury  
**DANCE IMPROVISATION** by Joyce Morgenroth

**DANCE IMPROVISATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING**

Physical studio work 50 points  
(there is no make-up policy for physical studio work)

Participation/Active discussion 50 points  
**Total 100 points**

**TEXT FOR DANCE COMPOSITION (January-June)**

Various dance composition text may be extracted and distributed

**DANCE COMPOSITION COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING**

1. Physical studio work and discussion 40 points  
(there is no make-up policy for physical studio work)  
2. Written Assignments 35 points  
3. Written quizzes/exams 25 points  
**Total 100 points**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING RUBRIC**

**GRADING SCORE**

**DAILY APPLICATIONS**

**1. Grooming/Uniform**

See uniform and grooming policy in Ellington's Dance Handbook

**2. Attendance/Tardiness**

Completely uniformed & groomed for class by roll call.

Participation in all classes, master classes/workshops/seminars performances, rehearsals and auditions.

**3. Conduct / Behavior / Etiquette**

Appropriate conduct and behavior as it relates to the students' understanding consequences of their personal cause and effect actions/reactions.

Understanding and demonstrating traditional etiquettes of dance.  
Positive approach and attitude.

#### **4. Technical Development**

Demonstrate the ability to execute movement sequence from beginning to end with consistent improvement/development in technical growth.

Application and retention of verbal and technical corrections

Demonstrates initiative to independently enhance the value of information received

**NOTE: Non attendance or non-participation results in ZERO POINTS for that day. Excused absences, early dismissal and late arrival to class must first be officially cleared and documented by Ellington's Office of Administration, before the dance department's acceptance.**

#### **LITERACY PLAN**

All written assignments are to be typed and submitted on the requested due date.  
Late assignments will be penalized by a grade drop from the grade actually received.  
Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted, resulting in a grade of "F"

#### **PHYSICAL EXAMS**

Physical Exams are based on the information received during studio time.  
Adherence to the examination date is imperative. Make-up physical examinations, are at the discretion of the instructor.

#### **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AND GROOMING POLICY**

**FEMALES:** Black Tank Top Leotard / Black Wrap Ballet Skirt/ Flesh Toned Convertible Tights/ Flesh Toned Ballet Slippers

**MALES:** White Tank Tee-Shirt/Black Tights/ White Leather Ballet Slippers/ White Crew Socks/ Black Dance Belt/ Leather Waist Belt

**HAIRSTYLE FOR FEMALES:** Hair must be pulled back neatly away from face and secured in bun with hairnet.

**HAIRSTYLE FOR MALES:** Neatly close-cropped hair

**NO BRAIDS, TWISTS, EXTENSIONS, LOCS, BANTU KNOTS, MOHAWKS, SCULPTED HAIR, PONYTAILS, HAIR COLOR, DYES, HENNAS, HEAD WRAPS AND/OR SCARVES. HAIR WEAVES MUST BE ABLE TO BE PULLED INTO A BUN NEAR THE CROWN OF THE HEAD.**

**MALES AND FEMALES: JEWELRY AND BODY ADORNMENTS**

Absolutely, NO finger rings, nose rings or lip rings, watches, bracelets or necklaces.

Only small stud earrings are allowed. NO double earrings.

NO nail or toe polish

NO make-up

Visible tattoos must be covered with make-up on a daily basis.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICE DECORUM**

All electronic devices, including cell phones and i-pods must be turned off and secured in student locker before and during class. (Refer to Dance Department Handbook/ Page 12)

**GRADING SCALE**

**A 93 - 100**

**B 90 - 92**

**B+ 87 - 89**

**B 83 - 86**

**B- 80 - 82**

**C+ 79 - 77**

**C 73 - 76**

**C - 70 - 72**

**D+ 67 - 69**

**D 64 - 66**

**F 63 and below**

**I Incomplete** (too little work submitted) Students have until 2 weeks after issuance or report cards to submit assignments and make up individual physical assignments and exams. Failure to complete required work within the above stated time frame will result in the incomplete grade converting to an "F"

**M Medical Excuse** – Once an injury has been verified by a physician and the student is deemed unable to participate for a minimum of two weeks and not more than one advisory, a letter grade of "C" or below will be administered for that period. If the injury is longer than one advisory, the student's tenure at Ellington must be revisited by parent, principal and dance faculty. (Refer to Dance Department 2009-2010 Handbook)

The Medical Excuse Guidelines shared in the Ellington Community Handbook relates to Academic courses/classes only, not physical intense arts classes such as dance

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students and parents/caregivers are held accountable for reporting all absences within 48 hours of the student's return. All letters must be submitted to the Dean of Students or his designee for verification/approval, and submitted to course instructor. Students with chronic unexcused attendance, may result in a failing grade for the course.

For each class to which a student is tardy three (3) times, that student will accrue one unexcused absence. Five (5) or more unexcused absences per advisory, may result in the student receiving a grade of "FA" (failure due to absences) in that subject. Excessive absences, even for legitimate reasons, will have an adverse effect on the work presented and therefore, on the grade earned. Students who are absent for performances, field trips, and extra-curricular activities, are held accountable and responsible to secure and complete all written assignments, written quizzes, and written tests according to guidelines of Attendance Policies and Procedures established in the Ellington Handbook, and individual/group physical projects or other physical lesson plans missed.

Late written assignments will only be accepted one day after due date, resulting in the grade being lowered by 10 points from grading score actually earned.

## **TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES**

### **DANCE IMPROVISATION (August-January)**

Students will be able to explore and expand their artistic creativity through the following activities:

Overview and introduction to Improvisation

Preliminaries: body parts warm-up, action word warm-up, name accumulation

Exploring self, immediacy, quality action words, sound words, pantomime actions

Mirroring, unison, active and passive, weight dependency

Introduction to space

Levels

Symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes

Introduction to time

Movement invention

Activities for Junior year

### **DANCE COMPOSITION (January-June)**

Students will be able to create, select, and shape movement into a dance, designing the action to satisfy a particular intent.

**Note: Scheduled date of classes, assignments, exams, course content etc. are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, and/or in the event of extenuating circumstances.**

