

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

**DANCE ORIENTATION  
Instructor: T. Alexander**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Dance Orientation is a seminar designed course for all entry level 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The focus of this class is to introduce the students to several units of study material, that will directly impact their status as a new and continuing dance student in a dual arts and academic program. There will be group discussion and projects throughout the unit. This class is a semester course, and earns .5 carnegie unit

**NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN DANCE**

**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

**Content Standard # 6** - Making connections between dance and healthful living

**Achievement Standard:**

- a. identify at least three personal goals to improve themselves as dancers

- b. explain how healthy practices (such as nutrition, safety) enhance their ability to dance, citing multiple examples

**Content Standard #7** - Making connections between dance and other disciplines

**Achievement Standards:**

- a.. create a dance project that reveals understanding of a concept or idea from another discipline
- c. respond to a dance using another art form; explain the connections between the dance and their response to it

**TEXT**

This class does not have textbook requirement. Handouts will be distributed. It is strongly suggested that each student in the dance department program begin to build his/her own personal library with references specific to the content area.

**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.**

<b>Participation/Active discussion</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Hands-on group work</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Notebook/Assessment</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Required tools/Documentation</b>	<b>25%</b>

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Three ring binder  
3x5 index cards  
Highlighter marker  
Transparent protective sheet covers

### **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 of 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)

## **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**

The course of instruction will include:

### **UNIT 1**

#### **SETTING UP MY BLUEPRINT**

Goal setting/self-esteem/characteristics

Nutrition for the Dance Student (School Nurse)

Essentials for the Dance Student

College Research and Exhibit

Social Skills & Communication Educational Bingo for Teens

Introduction to the Theater/Theater Etiquette and Protocol

Introduction to Concert & Production Tasks

### **UNIT 2**

#### **FAMOUS CHOREOGRAPHERS, DANCERS AND COMPANIES**

Artist Research

Company Research

Research Company Ballets

Auditioning

Create a timeline illustrating important dance events, placing them in their social/historical/cultural/political context

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