

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Music Department

Course Syllabus

(As given by T Alexander in Dance Orientation)

Course: Movement for Singers Credit: One Carnegie Unit each year

Course Description

Movement for singers is a course designed for vocalists of all grades. The focus of this class is to introduce the students to several units of study material that will directly impact their status as a “singer in movement. There will be group discussion and projects throughout the unit.

This class is a semester course, and earns 1 carnegie unit

*Though you may not necessarily be focused on becoming a dancer, I will work around some of the National Standards of dance as a foundational tool to assist in this movement course.

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

Other Objectives

Since there is absolutely no prerequisite to this class (i.e. training or even talent) this will be a basic introductory dance course which will develop as I become aware of your dance ability.

Presence on the recital/opera stage-learning the stage and the technical terms associated with movement thereon.

TEXT

This class does not have textbook requirement. Handouts will be distributed.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Three ring binder

Pen

Paper

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AND GROOMING POLICY

FEMALES/ MALES: Breathable, stretchable attire...no jeans. It would be wise to purchase a jazz shoe....no sneakers or socks.

HAIRSTYLE FOR FEMALES: Hair must be pulled back away from face.

HAIRSTYLE FOR MALES: Neatly close-cropped hair, for gentlemen with longer hair- Hair must be pulled back away from face.

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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE DECORUM

All electronic devices, including cell phones and i-pods must be turned off and secured INSIDE a bag.

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.

3. Conduct / Behavior / Etiquette

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

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.

Attendance 10%

Preparation 10%

Participation 35%

Assignments 35%

Notebook 10%

GRADING SCALE

A+ 97-100

A 93-96

A- 90-92

B+ 87 - 89

B 83 - 86

B- 80 - 82

C+ 77 - 79

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.

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.

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.