

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
DANCE DEPARTMENT  
Course Syllabus  
**“MODERN II”**  
Arts Block  
Instructor – Nikki Sutton-Mackey

**PREREQUISIT**

Completion of Modern I unless promoted based on

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the intermediate level of modern dance based on the Horton Technique devised to fortify, stretch and strengthen the body. This class focuses on continuation and progressions of the Lester Horton technique as well as physical technical skills and developmental process of the fundamental technical applications of Horton I. Daily participation in all class work is required including; reading and writing assignments/examinations; physical assignments, projects, and examinations; some choreographic/principles/process; attendance of selected performances and master classes/workshops; and open discussions of self expressed observations and opinions, ideas and concepts on dance as an art form. Through this approach, students will begin to actively apply a conscious knowledge of dance as it relates to humanity, tradition and social, philosophical and emotional perspectives.

**NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN DANCE**

**CONTENT STANDARD #1** - Identifying And Demonstrating Movement/Dance Elements And Skills In Performing Dance.

**ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD:**

- a. accurately demonstrate nonlocomotor/axial movements (such as bend, twist, stretch and swing).
- b. accurately demonstrate eight basic locomotor movements (such as walk, run, hop jump, leap, gallop, slide & skip); traveling forward, backward, sideward, diagonally, & turning.
- c. create shapes low, middle, & high.
- d. demonstrate the ability to define and maintain personal space.
- e. demonstrate movements in straight & curved paths.
- f. demonstrate accuracy in moving to a musical beat & responding to changes in tempo.
- g. demonstrate kinesthetic awareness, concentration, & focus in performing movement skills.
- h. attentively observe & accurately describe the action & movement element 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 & without a rhythmic accompaniment; identifying each of these parts of the sequence.
- b. improvise, create & perform dances based on their own ideas & concepts from other sources.
- e. demonstrate the ability to work effectively alone & with a partner.
- f. demonstrate the following partner skills: copying, leading & following, mirroring.

**CONTENT STANDARD #3** - Understanding Dance As A Way To Create And Communicate Meaning.

**ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD:**

- 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.
- \*\* analyze through movement the physical, emotional and social dimensions of characters in a dramatic texts

**CONTENT STANDARD #4** - Applying And Demonstrating Critical And Creative Thinking Skills In Dance.

**ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD:**

- a. explore, discover, and realize 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 (such as space) by observing body shapes, levels and pathways.

**CONTENT STANDARD # 6** - Making Connections Between Dance And Healthful Living.

**ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD:**

- a. identifying 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 STANDARD:**

- a. create a dance project that reveals understanding of a concept or idea from another discipline (such as patterns in science).
- b. respond to a dance using another art form; explain the connections between the dance and their response to it (such as stating how paintings reflect the dance they saw or choreographed).

**TEXTS** - This class does not have textbook requirements. Handouts from the following texts will be distributed from the following. It is suggested that each student in the Dance Department Program begin to build his/her own personal library w/references specific to the content area.

The Dance Technique of Lester Horton  
Marjorie Perces, Ana Marie Forsythe, Cheryl Bell

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS / GRADING RUBIC** **GRADING SCORE**

**The grades for each advisory will be based on the following areas:**

**Participation 10% -**

- Completely uniformed & groomed in proper dance dept. attire for class by roll call.

**Practice and Application 50% -**

- Fully engaged and executing exercises and activities with best effort.
- Positive approach & attitudes
- Appropriate Conduct & Behavior as it relates to the students understanding consequences of their personal cause & effect actions/reactions.

**Assessments 40% -**

- Performance tasks (fitness testing)
- Projects

**Grading percentages for assignments within each category will vary by arts department based on the processes and assessments specific to each discipline. It is a requirement to pass a course that students participate/attend all rehearsals and performances as these are also assessments.**

**GRADING SCALE**

**A = 93-100**  
**A- = 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 10 school days 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”.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**\*\*Non Attendance Or No Participation Results in (0 points) For That Day**

**\*\*Grade reductions will be implemented for 5 unexcused absences in a quarter for a single course.**

**\*\*The automatic “FA” (failure due to absences) will be implemented for 10 unexcused absences in a quarter for a single course.**

**\*\* An automatic “F” will be implemented for 30 unexcused absences in a year for a single course.**

**Excused Absences, Early Dismissals, Late Arrival to Class Must First Be Officially Cleared & Documented By Ellington’s Office Of Administration Before Acceptance.**

**Once an injury has been verified by a physician and the student is deemed unable to participate for a minimum of two weeks, the students’ medical recommendation will be referred to administration.**

## **UNIFORM & GROOMING POLICY**

**FEMALES-** Black Tank Leotard/Flesh Tone Convertible Tights, Flesh Tone Ballet Shoes.

**MALES** - White Tank T-shirt, Black Convertible Tights, White Leather Ballet Shoes, White Crew Socks, Black Dance Belt and Leather Waist Belt.

**Hairstyle for Females:** All hair should be pulled back away from face in a tight secure “Ballet” bun, and covered with a thi hairnet. Because of the aesthetic quality, safety, discipline and technical demands of dance, it is imperative for the female hairstyle to be uniform and of a size that accommodates partnering, balance and all turns and jumps.

**Hairstyle for Males:** Neatly close-cropped hair cuts.

### **MALES AND FEMALES**

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

### **Jewelry & Body Adornments:**

**Absolutely NO-** rings, nose rings, lip rings and body adornments, watches, bracelets, necklaces and double ear earrings. Only small studs are permitted for girls (one in each ear)

**NO** nail or toe polish (nails must be no longer than fingertips)

**NO** make-up permitted

**Visible Tattoos** must be covered with make-up daily.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE(S) DECORUM**

**ALL Electronic Devices (including cell phones & iPods) Should be Turned Off and Secured in Students’ Lockers Before and During Class.**

## **TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES**

The course of instruction will include:

- 1. Warm up procedures**
  - Flatbacks
  - Primitive Squats
  - Lateral Series
- 2. Swings**
  - Release swings
  - 5/4 swings
  - Leg swings
- 3. Studies**
  - Fortification studies 1-12
  - Elementary balance
  - Figure 4 study
- 4. Descents and Ascents**
  - Front and Side lunge descent
  - Sit twist
  - Hinge descent
- 5. Falls**
  - Side fall
  - Lateral T fall
  - Front fall
- 6. Turns**
  - Lateral T
  - Table
  - Stag
  - Pencil
  - Figure 4
  - Side Attitude
  - Passe'
- 7. Jumps, Leaps, Runs, Tilts**

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