

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Movement I  
Class Time: W, F 3:30-4:55  
Class Location: Performance Hall

Instructor: Dawn Naser  
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## Course Description:

Movement I introduces actors to basic movement vocabulary and kinesthetic awareness. Students will develop an awareness of the physical body as a communicating instrument through exercises influenced by Suzuki Technique, Dance, Laban Technique, and Viewpoints. Students will explore the potential for communicating with the body and learn to read and respond to performances of peers.

## Course Goals:

To increase flexibility, balance, and physical awareness  
To develop an awareness of physical habits  
To improve posture, alignment, and centering  
To learn how to care for your physical self  
To gain self-knowledge through exploration and play  
To develop physical rigor, stamina, and discipline

## Course Requirements and Rules:

1. All classes are mandatory. Exercises, discussions, and performance work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class.
2. Don't be late! Tardiness is an unacceptable practice in this business and will severely affect your final grade.
3. All written assignments must be typed. Use a 1 inch margin and 12 point font. Staple papers that are more than one page.
4. Students are responsible for making up all work missed during an absence by the next class.
5. Late work will be accepted for half credit the day after an assignment is due. Work more than one day late will not be accepted.
6. It is the student's responsibility to ask the instructor questions about grades.
7. Students are required to schedule and attend rehearsals when necessary.
8. Be prepared to move during every class. Students are required to change into their theatre uniform at lunch. Students caught without their uniform on after lunch will receive an "F" for their work in class that day. For more information about the departmental dress code, see the Theatre Handbook.
9. Bring water in a closed container to every class. You will need it and will not be permitted to leave the classroom to get a drink.
10. Bring a journal, notebook and pen/pencil to every class.
11. Any student caught cheating on or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for that assignment and will be reported to Principal Logan and Mama Tracie. Plagiarism includes pirating information from the Internet without proper documentation.

## **Physical Environment:**

Due to the nature and content of this course the student must understand that s/he will be required to work in close physical proximity, often requiring contact, with instructor and fellow students. It is assumed that each student is comfortable with such contact unless stated otherwise.

Please inform the instructor if you have any physical problems, which may prevent you from fully participating in class work. If you believe you have a physical disability that may warrant accommodation in this class, speak with the instructor as soon as possible so that a method for addressing your needs can be developed.

## **Students will receive grades for the following:**

1. Practice and Application 50% (warm-ups, in-class discussion, improvisations, exercises, movement sequences, attendance, focus, work-ethic)
2. Assessments 40% (scene work, reflective papers, exams, juries, group projects, performances, compositions)
3. Participation/Citizenship 10% (leadership within the department: behavior in hallway and class, participation in activities like theatre fund raisers and events, volunteer project, ensemble job responsibility)

## **Grading Scale:**

100-90	A	(Excellent. Far above and beyond my expectations in both artistic and academic accomplishment).
89-80	B	(Above average. Superior achievement in both academic and artistic achievement).
79-70	C	(Average. A grade of "C" will put you on artistic probation).
69-60	D	(Below Average).
59 and Below	F	(Failure).

## **Movement I will address the following DC Theatre Standards:**

HSA.3.3 Document observations and perceptions of production elements of a play, noting mood, pacing, and use of space.

HSA.1.6 Demonstrate concepts of space, time, and energy in group improvisations.

HSP.1.4 Make acting choices using script analysis, character research, reflection, and revision through the rehearsal process.