

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
DANCE DEPARTMENT
Course Syllabus
“MODERN III/IV”
Arts Block
Instructor - Katherine Smith

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the advanced level of modern dance based on the Horton Technique devised to fortify, stretch and strengthen the body. This class is an intensive approach toward specific movement skills and studies designed by Lester Horton to reshape the body while enhancing an understanding of movement theory, competency of technique skills, and concentration of style and dynamics. In addition, fundamentals of the Graham Technique will be introduced and implemented to assist growth and development of an accomplished. 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 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 text

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

Dancing
Gerald Jones

The Modern Dance
Selma Jean Cohen

History of the Dance
Richard Kraus, Sarah Chapman
(2nd edition)

Black Dance from 1619 to Today
Lynne Fauley Emery (2nd edition)

Black Tradition in American Dance
Richard A. Long

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING RUBRIC

The Following Literacy & Physical Application Requirements Will be Used Dually for Practice & Application = 50% AND/OR Assessments = 40%

PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS – Students are to demonstrate their tenacity in the development of body vocabulary, physical execution of movements, body dynamics and nuance characteristics through daily studio technical work, and an evaluation/assessment process.

RUBRIC

GRADING SCORE = 100 points

a) Movement Execution

Clarity in body alignment, technique, transitions, coordination, & articulation (arms, body & feet)

(b) Movement Comprehension

Understands terminology & applies all movement concepts to students’ individual body.

(c) Movement Sequence

Designed order of movement demonstrated from beginning to end repeatedly.

(d) Movement Musicality

Movement to proper counts, movement dynamics, movement fluidity, rhythm & tempo changes.

(e) Movement Presentation

Use of Individual Style, movement quality, energy, facial expression & engage the audience.

Physical Assessments Are Based On The Unit of Technique Studied (Horton)& Choreography

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS - All Written Assignments Are To Be Typed And Submitted On The Requested Due Date.

RUBRIC

GRADING SCORE = 100 points

(a) Applies wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, & evaluate texts, knowledge of word meanings.

Research

Essays

Journals

(b) Employs a wide range of strategies to write using conventions style, vocabulary and/or different writing process to effectively and appropriately communicate.

Critiques

Autobiographies

(c) Apply knowledge of language/sentence structure, figurative language, & conventions (spelling & punctuation).

(d) Demonstrates ability to use a variety of technological & information resources to create & communicate knowledge.

(e) Demonstrates reflective, creative & critical thinking skills.

Additional Written Assessments May Be Implemented Based On The Unit of Study (Horton History & Terminology)

PARTICIPATION 10% = DAILY APPLICATION

GRADING SCORE = 100 points

A. Grooming/Uniform

1) See Uniform & Grooming Policy in Ellington's Dance Handbook

B. Attendance/Tardiness

1) Completely Uniformed & groomed for class by roll call. (always on time)
2) Participation in all required/scheduled dance, Master Classes/Workshops/Seminars Performances, Rehearsals & Auditions

C. Conduct/Behavior/Etiquette

1) Appropriate Conduct & Behavior as it relates to the students' understanding consequences of their personal cause & effect actions/reactions
2) Understanding & demonstrating traditional etiquettes of dance.
3) Positive approach & attitude (work ethic)

D. Basic Fundamentals Within Physical Class Participation

1) demonstrate the ability to execute movement sequence from beginning to end w/consistent improvement/development in technical growth.
2) application & retention of verbal & technical corrections.
3. exhibits endurance /stamina /perseverance and determination
4) demonstrates initiative to work independently & enhance the value of information received.

No Participation Results in (0 points) For That Day. Excused Absences, Early Dismissals, Late Arrival to Class Must First Be Officially Cleared & Documented By Ellington's Office Of Administration Before Department's Acceptance.

ELLINGTON'S DANCE DEPARTMENT UNIFORM & GROOMING POLICY

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

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

Hairstyle for Girls: Hair pulled back neatly, away from face in a secure bun w/hairnet.
(except short bush hair cut)

Hairstyle for Boys: Neatly close-cropped hair.

Hairstyles Unacceptable for Girls & Boys:

NO braids, twists, extensions, locs, bantu knots, corn rows, mohawks, sculpted hair, ponytail, hair color, dyes, hennas head wraps and/or scarves. Hair weaves must be able to pull into bun near the crown of the head. Any hair style different from standard grooming policy is not acceptable.

Girls & Boys: Jewelry & Body Adornments:

Absolutely NO- rings, nose rings, lip rings and body adornments, watches, bracelets, necklaces and double or more 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.

(Refer to Current School Year Dance Dept. Hand Book)

ELECTRONIC DEVICE(S) DECORUM

ALL Electronic Devices (including cell phones, iPods, etc...) Should be Turned Off and Secured in Students' Lockers Before and During Class.

(Refer to the Current School Year Dance Dept. Handbook)

GRADING SCALE

At the secondary, level, sixth (6th) grade through twelfth (12th) grade, marks/grades of A through F shall be assigned by the teacher to indicate the degree of achievement by the student of the content standards in each course. Results of the end of course exam will count for no more than 20% of the final grade.

(Refer to Ellington's Current School Year Community & Dance Dept. Handbook)

Marks/Grades Shall Be As Follows:

- 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 until 2 weeks after issuance of report cards to submit assignments and make-up individual physical assignments/exams (physical group projects excluded) Failure to complete work required within the above stated time frame will result in the Incomplete grade converting to an "F" (Failure).

M = Medical (Illness/Injury) = Once an injury has been verified by a physician and the student is deemed unable to participate for a minimum of two weeks &/or more, the students' medical recommendation must be submitted and documented with the dance department who will then refer it to administration. As a support plan, an assignment with detailed specifications of the expectations for each student's engagement with the content of study may be given.

Support Plan = Students receiving a grade of **C- or below** will receive a dance department student support plan to be completed by the student & course instructor from dance faculty and returned immediately with parent/guardian signature as verification of knowledge, understanding & receipt. ***Student's non-compliance &/or completion of support plan will continue to jeopardize grade. Administration & Parent will be notified by instructor in a timely manner for resolve.***

ATTENDANCE

Students who are absent for performances, field trips, and extracurricular 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 at the discretion of the respective teacher.

- Late written assignments due to absence must be accompanied by letter of excuse with approval from attendance counselor. Verification of absence will also allow students to make up for written quizzes/tests without score deduction.
- Late written assignments without verification of absence will only be accepted one day after students return resulting in the grade being lowered 10 points from actual grade score received on work submitted. This also applies to written quizzes/tests.
- There are no make-ups for group physical projects or other class physical lesson plans missed. Make-up for individual physical projects and/or exams will be at the discretion of the instructor upon validity and verification of absence.

Attendance Impact Policy

- Students with ten (10) unexcused absences in any class shall receive an initial written notice that they are at risk of receiving a grade of “FA” (failure due to absences) in that subject upon accumulating more than thirty (30) unexcused absences, unless an exception applies.
- Students with fifteen (15) unexcused absences in any class shall receive an additional written warning that they are at risk of receiving a grade of “FA” (failure due to absences) in that subject upon accumulating more than thirty (30) unexcused absences.
- Students accumulating more than thirty (30) unexcused absences in a course within a full school year shall receive a failing final grade in that course with a resulting loss of course credit.
- Students accumulating more than thirty (30) unexcused absences within a school year shall only be promoted if a written justification is submitted by the principal to the Chancellor, or the student attends summer school and is reevaluated for promotion

Chronic absences, truancy or tardiness are serious problems that will be referred to administration for further review &/or support. *(See DCPS Attendance & Truancy Policy)*

Ellington’s Attendance/Absence & Physician Policies Must be Adhered; Documented & Verified.
(Refer to the Current School Year Ellington Community & Dance Dept. Handbook)