

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.

Student grading and promotion can be impacted by an accrual of unexcused absences as follows:

- 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

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 thin 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

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.