

**DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
DANCE DEPARTMENT**

**DANCE IMPROVISATION
INSTRUCTOR: T. ALEXANDER**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance Improvisation is an introduction course for all 11th grade dance students. The class is designed to develop critical thinking, and to encourage students to explore, discover, problem solve and expand artistic creativity. This class is a semester course, and earns .5 credit.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN DANCE

Content Standard # 1 - Identifying and demonstrating movement, elements and skill in performing dance.

Achievement Standard:

- a. accurately demonstrate nonlocomotor/ *axial movements (such as bend, twist, stretch, swing)
- b. accurately demonstrate eight basic *locomotor movements (such as walk, run, hop, jump, leap, gallop, slide and skip), traveling forward, backward, sideward, diagonally, and turning
- c. create shapes at low, middle, and high * levels
- d. demonstrate the ability to define and maintain * personal space
- e. demonstrate movements in straight and curved pathways
- f. demonstrate accuracy in moving to a musical beat and responding to changes in tempo
- g. demonstrate *kinesthetic awareness, concentration, and focus in performing movement skills
- h. attentively observe and accurately describe the *action (such as skip, gallop) and movement elements (such as *levels, directions) 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 and without a rhythmic accompaniment; identify each of these parts of the sequence
- b. improvise, create, and perform dances based on their own ideas and concepts from other sources
- c. use improvisation to discover and invent movement and to solve movement problems
- d. create a dance phrase, accurately repeat it, and then vary it (making changes in the time, space, and/or force/energy)
- e. demonstrate the ability to work effectively alone and with a partner
- f. demonstrate the following partner skills: copying, leading and following, mirroring

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

TEXT FOR DANCE IMPROVISATION

This class does not have textbook requirement for students. However, activities are taken from the following book:

DANCE IMPROVISATION by, Justine Reeve

DANCE IMPROVISATION by Joyce Morgenroth

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING RUBRIC GRADING SCORE

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

Participation 10%

Practice and Application 50%

Assessments 40%

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 participation/attend all rehearsals and performances as these are also assessments

GRADING SCALE

A 93 - 100

B 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 IMPACT ON GRADE

- 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)
- 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)
- 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

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

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AND GROOMING POLICY

FEMALES: Black Tank Top Leotard / Black Wrap Ballet Skirt/ Flesh Toned Convertible Tights/ Flesh Toned Ballet Slippers

MALES: White Tank Tee-Shirt/Black Tights/ White Leather Ballet Slippers/ White Crew Socks/ Black Dance Belt/ Leather Waist Belt

HAIRSTYLE FOR FEMALES:

All hair should be smooth and 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, 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, HEAD WRAPS AND/OR SCARVES. HAIR WEAVES MUST BE ABLE TO BE PULLED INTO A BUN NEAR THE CROWN OF THE HEAD.

JEWELRY AND BODY ADORNMENTS

Absolutely, NO finger rings, nose rings or lip rings, watches, bracelets or necklaces. Only small stud earrings are allowed. NO double earrings.

NO nail or toe polish

NO make-up

Visible tattoos must be covered with make-up on a daily basis.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE DECORUM

All electronic devices, including cell phones and i-pods must be turned off and secured in student locker before and during class. (Refer to Dance Department Handbook/ Page 12)

TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES

DANCE IMPROVISATION

Students will be able to explore and expand their artistic creativity through the following activities:

Overview and introduction to Improvisation

Preliminaries: body parts warm-up, action word warm-up, name accumulation

Exploring self, immediacy, quality action words, sound words, pantomime actions

Mirroring, unison, active and passive, weight dependency
Critique and peer dialogue
Introduction to space
Levels
Symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes
Introduction to time
Movement invention
Activities for Junior year

Note: Scheduled date of assessments, course content etc. are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, and/or in the event of extenuating circumstances, i.e. school closures, unscheduled activities, etc.)