UTEP Dance Team Syllabus

(Course MUSA 1102)
The University of Texas at El Paso
The College of Student Affairs and Music
Department of Spirit of Operations
Instructor: Leslie Lopez

Course Description:
UTEP Dance Team is an audition-based team who performs at all athletic events and community functions/appearances throughout the calendar year. The dance team focuses on different forms of dance styles and techniques to gain a wide variety of knowledge through dance. Students are expected to analyze movement and adapt general principles to specific movement challenges. Students will also engage in various professional rehearsing/performances aspects of dance such as: learning material taught by the choreographer, altering or inflecting material as directed, and responding to creative assignments. Students will practice receiving and/or participating in critical feedback. Dancers are guided in understanding the individual performer's responsibility in achieving the success of teamwork.

Course Objectives:
Members are committed to their role as ambassadors of the University and represent UTEP at a variety of alumni, civic and charitable events with a positive attitude and collegiate image that emulate the values of The University of Texas at El Paso.

- Members will develop transferable skills that will be assets to their professional and personal growth. We pledge to introduce, develop, and/or refine communication skills, organizational skills, scheduling and planning, and time management, to name a few.
- Dancers will become an educated dancer, using critical evaluation to determine how specific techniques affect your body.
- Improve ability to observe, analyze, and embody the required movement language of the dance with increasing speed and accuracy.
- Develop aesthetic and creative flexibility in the practical application of technique to a specific choreography.
- Improve ability to perform when "practicing," and successfully perform all material that was being applied in rehearsals.
Team Requirements:

- All dancers selected at try-outs are considered finalists. The final dancer(s) will be selected in August by the coach based on, but not limited to, grades, enrollment at UTEP, respect, commitment, attitude, performance, skills, work ethic, ability to pick up material, athleticism, study hall, workouts, physical fitness, attendance, overall talent, and endurance.
- Any squad member that resigns from the squad at any time after tryouts or during the football or basketball season may try out for following school year, but may be required to sit out a semester at discretion of coach. An appeal may be made after a year’s absence and an exception will be made only by mutual agreement of the coaches.
- All students must try-out each year and a student is assured a position on the squad if he or she is selected only for the school year involved.
- A student dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reasons may be prohibited from trying out in the future.

Dance Practice/ Performance Requirements:

- Come prepared to all rehearsals and learn technical choreography in a timely manner.
- Demonstrates the results of the process, gives the choreographer/instructor a “full-out” performance from which to evaluate the dancer and the dance.
- Contribute to a productive and positive working environment through consistency, discipline, creativity, and adaptability.
- Attend all technical rehearsals and all scheduled performances
- Proper UTEP dance attire must always be worn during practices, arriving and departing all scheduled appearances, athletic events and community events.

Individual Evaluations:

Individual evaluations are observed daily in technical rehearsals and performance appearances. Overall, students will be evaluated on how they meet the above objectives and requirements in both the rehearsal process and performances. Students who do not meet all course requirements, such as attendance at all rehearsals, community appearances, performances and expected contribution to all course activities may be required to sit out a semester at discretion of coach.