Syllabus
Dance Pedagogy, DANC 4394  24317

Instructor: Lisa Smith
Office hours: 11:30 – 1:00 T,R
Fox Fine Arts 200 or by appointment
Contact me through Blackboard email.

Text
Our primary text is: Dance Teaching Methods and Curriculum Design. We will supplement this text with readings and articles provided by your instructor.

Course Objective
Dance Pedagogy is the study of the art and instructional methods of teaching dance. In this class we will focus on teaching dance in three areas: public K - 12 education, private dance schools/studios, and higher education. We will approach this study by looking at fundamentals of movement and how they function in teaching dance across these areas. We will look at teaching dance through the study of the structure of dance classes, aesthetics in teaching dance as an art, principles of sound physiology, and expectations for dance students of varying ages and backgrounds. We will develop a basis for teaching dance in several forms and styles.

Assignments and Grading
The course is made up of movement exercises, observation and critique, lecture/discussions, mini-teaching experiences, and the creation of a teaching portfolio.

You will have weekly online quizzes and writing assignments (Discussion Boards) over our readings.
Total possible points = Quizzes (5 pts. ea.= 75 + Discussion Boards 10 pts. ea.= 150

You will attend 30 classes over the semester. Two absences are allowed before penalty, and points have been adjusted to reflect those absences.
Attendance, possible points = 280

You will observe and critique 3 dance classes in varying styles at various levels at differing locations and submit a critique, based on specific objectives, within one week of the observation.
Total possible pts = 45

You will have a two mini-teaching assignments to be taught to your classmates. The subject of this assignment will be determined by your instructor.
Total possible pts = 25 each/ 50 total

You will have a final project to prepare two teaching portfolios, one in hard copy (100 pts.) and a digital portfolio (50 pts.) that include: a statement of teaching philosophy, lesson plans, unit plan, assessment rubric, letter of introduction, other documents, and a resume.
Total possible points = 150

And a series of smaller assignments and evaluations for a total of 50 pts.
Quizzes 75
Discussion Boards 150
Attendance 280
Observations 45
Teaching assignments 50
Final portfolio project 150
Misc. assignments 50
Total possible 800

A = or > 720
B = or > 640
C = or > 576
D = or > 480
F = < 400

Some premises for this class include:

1. The idea that there are many ways to teach dance, and no one way is “the way.” Our job is to find our own most effective way to teach.
2. Becoming a good teacher is an ongoing process, a process that extends throughout a career.
3. Both teacher and student share responsibility for the complimentary acts of teaching and learning.
4. Knowledge is constructed by students. The teacher’s job is to aid in that construction.

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**Technology Problems:** Technology problems are NOT an excuse for work that is late or missing. Students need to get into the habit of completing assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with technology problems. Expect that at some time, the network will be down, computers will go on the fritz, or some other small catastrophes will occur. Contact IT for technological problems and remember the Atlas lab in the UGLC or LACIT in the Liberal Arts building provide assistance with using Blackboard.

**University Writing Center:** Located in the Library room 227, UTEP’s University Writing Center (UWC) offers free tutoring assistance in writing for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help you understand any writing assignment and will work with you to aid you in comprehending difficult material. Additional Writing Support: The Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl) http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ is a fine online writing resource that will help you with your final project.