# Syllabus

Dance Pedagogy, DANC 4394, 23236  
TR 12:00 – 1:20 Fox M 404  
Instructor: Lisa Smith  
Office hours: 10:30 – 12:00 TR  
Fox Fine Arts 200  
or by appointment  
Contact me through Blackboard email.

## 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.

## Text:

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

## Course Calendar:

A complete course calendar can be found on your Blackboard Course Page. Changes in assignments will be announced through Blackboard and your email.

## Technology:

All problems with Blackboard should be addressed through IT.
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 28 classes over the semester and you will have two 10 pt. work days. Two absences are allowed before penalty, and points have been adjusted to reflect those absences.

Possible attendance 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 three mini-teaching assignments to be taught to your classmates. The subject of these assignments will be determined by your instructor.

Total possible pts = 20 each/ 60 total

You will have a final project that consists of preparing two teaching portfolios, one in hard copy (80 pts.) and a digital portfolio (40 pts.) that include:

- a statement of teaching philosophy, lesson plans, unit plan, assessment rubric, letter of introduction, a resume, and other documents TBA.

Total possible points = 140

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 60
Final portfolio project 140
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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