

Contemporary Dance IV

DANC 3346

Spring 2018

Instructor: Leanne Rinelli

Class Meeting Times: TR 9:30-11:20 AM

Class Location: Fox Fine Arts A452

Office Hours: Mondays/Tuesdays 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, and by appointment

Office Location: Fox Fine Arts A450

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary Dance IV is an intermediate level studio technique class. Students will develop a deeper understanding of contemporary dance through the instruction of Evans and Release Techniques, the Bartenieff Fundamentals, and yogic principles. Combinations will be lengthier, with specific attention given to the aspects of technical proficiency and the development of performance quality. Time is devoted to cultivating a healthy mental well-being.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will explore the use of breath, gravity, dynamic effort, and technical skill as it applies to contemporary technique. Students will have the chance to examine their dancing through instructor- and peer-given feedback. Students will write in-class journals and turn in reflection assignments, research an influential 20th or 21st century choreographer, and provide peer feedback.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1.) Students will demonstrate an intermediate level of modern dance technique
- 2.) Students will demonstrate the use of gravity and a low center of weight, as well as the use of breath to support and inform movement.
- 3.) Students will develop an understanding of dynamic effort and its significance to contemporary technique.
- 4.) Students will gain articulation of the torso and spine and discover an ease of movement in the joints.
- 5.) Students will develop increased kinesthetic awareness, dynamic alignment, and integration of the muscular and nervous systems
- 6.) Students will demonstrate the ability to explore their personal movement preferences within improvisational structures.
- 7.) Students will identify personal strengths/areas for improvement and take steps to achieve positive changes, both through self- and peer-evaluation.
- 8.) Students will begin to recognize how to observe their peers in order to give constructive and supportive feedback.
- 9.) Students will articulate how their perceptions and attitudes impact their physical dance practice.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend every class on time and prepared to dance. Full participation in a technique class includes coming into the classroom with a positive attitude, clear focus, enthusiasm, commitment, respect, and professionalism. Proper dance attire is required in order to partake in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course adheres to a NO FAULT ABSENCE/LATENESS/PARTICIPATION POLICY. Below is an abbreviated version:

- 2 absences = 0 (no credit/debit)
- 3 absences = -10% (one grade debit)
- 4 absences = -20% (two grade debit)
- 5 absences = -30% (three grade debit)
- 6 absences = -40% (automatic F)

Please be aware that there are NO make-ups for this class. You have registered for this course and are therefore committed to attending consistently.

PROMPTNESS POLICY

You are expected to attend every class and to be dressed accordingly and ready to move on time. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late may observe class, write their observations, and turn them in to the faculty instructor. Observing class due to tardiness counts as ½ of an absence.

If you need to observe class due to an injury, talk to your instructor ahead of time to explain the nature of the injury and the medical measures you have taken. If your injury is holding you from participating in class for two weeks, you will be asked to drop the course and enroll again once your doctor has cleared you to engage in physical activity.

GRADING STRUCTURE

All final grades are based on reflections, reading responses, two practical exams, and overall effort and attitude. I DO NOT give points for attending class. That is an expectation. I reserve the right to lower grades based on poor attendance and/or a lack of effort and focus. Final grades will be calculated on the cumulative point total (100) of the following:

Self-Evaluation will be written as an in-depth reflection essay based on semester-long journaling. In addition to reflecting on how some (or all) of the journal exercises helped to shape your contemporary dance training, the essay will be a helpful critique of one's own habits, growth, attentiveness to goals. – *30 possible points*

Choreographer Research is a small group project on an influential 20th or 21st century choreographer that will be presented in class. Presentations may touch on the following points: Why were you interested in learning more about this choreographer? Can you describe his or her choreographic inspirations? What information can you gather about his or her artistic

process? How would you describe the choreographer's work after looking at examples (if possible)? Please specify which examples you watched. Has learning more about this choreographer inspired you? Why or why not? You will also create a phrase in the style of/inspired by the choreographer. – *30 possible points*

Work Habits and Personal Growth: Students will be graded on their attitude throughout the semester, their ability to apply and retain corrections, and their personal improvement over the course of the semester. – *40 possible points*

GRADE BREAKDOWN BY POINTS

100-90 points = A

89-80 points = B

79-70 points = C

69-60 points = D

Below 60 = F

An "A" student accomplishes consistently excellent work and demonstrates outstanding improvement. He/she is at the top of the class, always demonstrating strong technical execution of movement and expressive artistry. He/she is always on time, always focused and attentive throughout the class, and always takes responsibility for making corrections even if given generally or specifically to another student. He/she is as an outstanding model for the rest of the class.

A "B" student accomplishes consistently good work and demonstrates significant improvement. He/she is not at the top of the class, but is consistently trying to reach that level. He/she may struggle to learn new movement but can achieve a capable and expressive execution of the material after working on it. He/she accepts and utilizes both general and personal feedback and demonstrates a willingness to be open to new ways of thinking and moving.

A "C" student accomplishes consistently average work, demonstrating improvement throughout the semester. This student keeps up with the class and his/her technique is "coming along". He/she can pick up movement, but not with enough ease and depth to embody technical proficiency and expressivity at the same time. He/she must be given the same correction multiple times.

A "D" student accomplishes consistently below average work, demonstrating minimal improvement. He/she struggles to keep up with the class and fails to demonstrate the kind of personal commitment that will allow him/her to move forward in technical execution and artistry.

Dance Handbook for Dance Majors and Minors: The faculty of the Dance Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance has created this handbook to help you find your way around the department and curriculum and to understand what is expected of you as a dance major or minor at UTEP. You can access the handbook through Blackboard.

Academic Dishonesty and what steps the university takes in such cases. Please review this information at: <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php>

Copyright and Fair Use: The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

Center for Accommodations and Support Services: If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

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 written assignments or final research project.