Outline of Instruction

Division: Health Sciences  Area: Dance
Course Number: Dance 170  Course Name: Dance Composition I
Prerequisite: Dance 152: Modern Dance I and Dance 155: Dance Improvisation
Corequisite: None
Hours Required: Class: 2  Lab: 30  Credits: 2

Course Description/Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of Dance Composition. The semester will be spent with the intent to obtain an understanding of the elementary components that may be utilized in choreographing a dance. The concept of dance language and symbol system will be introduced. Emphasis is on one's individual growth process in relation to the concepts of this course as presented in class. Written and skills tests are a part of this course. Because some creative processes are aerobic by nature, a medical release may be required. This class may be repeated for credit twice (total 6 credits).

Major Units

• Preparation/Class Consideration
  Proper dance attire
  Health and safety concerns regarding self and others within the dance space
  Anatomical health and safety concerns regarding:
  range of motion for variations of alignment from smaller to fuller body movement
  allowing personal variations for technical skill levels
  awareness of body tension
  being ready to move at one's full capacity at commencement of each class period.

• Health Maintenance/Goal Assessment
  Assessment of needs and goals as a choreographer in relation to one's physical capabilities and personal movement styles
  Adaptability of composed materials due to classmates' physical capabilities
  Positive psychological effects when the goals within the creative process are accomplished
  Positive physical effects due to repetition and rehearsal of movement vocabulary
  Being resourceful when applying corrections

• Development of Skills
  Differentiating between metered/non-metered/mix metered movement vocabulary and music
  Differentiation of symmetrical vs. asymmetrical design
  Differentiating between positive and negative space
  Differentiating between the different movement qualities: weighty, light, strong
  Differentiation of dynamic ranges: low, medium, high
  Differentiation of first function vs. second function dance
Educational Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

**Cognitive**
Each student will be expected to identify/recognize:
- key elements of choreography: time, space, energy
- characteristics of the different dynamic/energy levels utilized to accomplish a diverse range of movements and expression inherent to that movement
- choreographic phrasing: vertical and horizontal
- proper etiquette for sharing the dance space
- benefits of practicing and repeating proper skills in relation to fulfilling one's personal goals
- benefits of being an active participant within a creative and supportive atmosphere
- the creative process known as improvisation
- the process or procedures for clarifying one's creative intent and motivation within the context of a phrase
- rhythmical structures
- body shape and design
- characteristics of different qualities preferred and experienced within their own movement capabilities.

**Performance**
Each student will be expected to improve through demonstration and practice the following skills:
- ability to explore the creative process of composition
- ability to extend oneself beyond one's usual limitations by overcoming physical and psychological inhibitions in relation to personal assessment of goals
- completion of all movement assignments on time
- understanding of the concepts presented in class; this understanding will be demonstrated through movement assignments, discussions and journal
- ability to participate to critiques and discussions
- ability to clarify and express one's ideas through movement and written statements
- safety precautions/considerations while occupying the space
- proper dance class decorum
- ability to pass a written exam based on course material.

**Attitudinal**
Each student will be expected to commit themselves to each class period physically, mentally and emotionally:
- a student must demonstrate a personal commitment to realize their full potential
- demonstrate a positive attitude and energy level by attending class regularly and promptly
- realize the physical and psychological benefits of successfully completing a course which enhances the understanding of ones personal creative abilities in relation to movement and dance as an art form.