

**DANC 14.1 Course Outline as of Summer 2025****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: DANC 14.1 Title: CONTEMPORARY DANCE I  
 Full Title: Contemporary Dance I  
 Last Reviewed: 1/28/2019

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	1.50	Lecture Scheduled	0.75	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	13.13
Minimum	1.50	Lab Scheduled	2.25	6	Lab Scheduled	39.38
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 26.25

Total Student Learning Hours: 78.75

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: DANCE 14.1

**Catalog Description:**

Contemporary dance draws from ballet modern and jazz dance techniques. This beginning (Level I) course follows a dance class format including center warm-ups, progressions, and combinations. The choreography will focus on clearly displayed emotional moods and fast-moving choreographic strategies, with an emphasis on innovation and stylized movement.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Course Completion of DANCE 10.2

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: Contemporary dance draws from ballet modern and jazz dance techniques. This beginning (Level I) course follows a dance class format including center warm-ups, progressions, and combinations. The choreography will focus on clearly displayed emotional moods and fast-moving choreographic strategies, with an emphasis on innovation and stylized movement. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Course Completion of DANCE 10.2

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective: Fall 2000	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective: Fall 2000	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Execute and analyze (Level I) contemporary dance sequences using applicable dance vocabulary.
2. Perform (Level I) contemporary dance choreography applying (Level I) techniques, musicality and performance skills.

**Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate Level I competence in the ballet, jazz, and modern dance skills incorporated in contemporary choreography.
2. Incorporate Level I contemporary dance performance skills such as expressive movement quality and appropriate facial expressions in the context of a contemporary dance class.
3. Choreograph a Level I contemporary dance combination.
4. Differentiate between contemporary dance and other dance genres including ballet, modern, and jazz dance genres.
5. Demonstrate musicality in the performance and choreography of a beginning Level I contemporary dance movement.
6. Apply knowledge of contemporary dance to the analysis of dance pieces viewed in a live or video performance.

**Topics and Scope:**

- I. Theory

- A. Background and characteristics of contemporary dance
  - B. Comparison of stylistic elements of contemporary dance to those of other dance genres (ballet, modern, jazz)
  - C. Level I dance terminology and corresponding movement vocabulary incorporated in contemporary dance
- II. Level I Contemporary Dance Skills and Techniques
- A. Warm-up exercises
  - B. Footwork and plies
  - C. Legwork
  - D. Alignment and limb placement
  - E. Balance
  - F. Stretching and strengthening
  - G. Floor work
  - H. Progressions (across the floor movements)
  - I. Center floor combinations
  - J. All of the above include practice in assimilation and retention of Level I dance sequences
- III. Level I Contemporary Dance Performance Skills
- A. Emotional expressiveness
  - B. Facial expression
  - C. Dynamic contrast
  - D. Projection
  - E. Performance energy
  - F. Dealing with performance anxiety
- IV. Musicality
- A. Expressing musical mood and color through movement quality
  - B. Phrasing and rhythmical timing
  - C. Accents
  - D. Learning dance movement with and without counts (i.e. to lyrics or instrumentation of music)
- V. Choreographing a Level I Combination in the Contemporary Dance Style
- A. May include improvisational experiences as a precursor to choreography
  - B. Synthesis of contemporary dance vocabulary and stylistic elements with personal style
- VI. Critiquing a Dance Performance in Relation to Contemporary Dance
- A. Deciphering dance - what to look for in a dance performance
  - B. Comparing and contrasting elements of a dance piece to characteristics of contemporary dance.

All topics are covered in the lecture and lab portions of the course.

### **Assignment:**

#### Lecture-Related Assignments:

1. Practice of dance skills and combinations from class (ungraded)
2. Reading of instructor prepared materials and/or textbook reading assignments (5-10 pages per week)
3. Choreography of a dance combination (short dance sequence) either in solo, with a partner, or group choreography projects
4. Studying vocabulary (ungraded)
5. Written 2 to 3 page critique of a live dance performance. (Alternate assignment: paper on a

video-taped dance performance)

**Lab-Related Assignments:**

1. Performance exams (1 - 3)
2. Midterm vocabulary terminology exam
3. Final exam (skill demonstration)

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Critique

Writing  
10 - 15%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performance in general, performance exams, choreography

Skill Demonstrations  
20 - 40%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Midterm and final exams

Exams  
10 - 15%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation

Other Category  
40 - 60%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

The Essential Guide to Contemporary Dance Techniques. Clarke, Melanie. Crowood Press (November 1, 2020)

Looking at Contemporary Dance; A Guide for the Internet Age. Strauss, Marc Raymond. Princeton Book Company (June 29, 2012) classic.