

**DANC 14.4 Course Outline as of Summer 2025****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: DANC 14.4 Title: CONTEMPORARY DANCE IV

Full Title: Contemporary Dance IV

Last Reviewed: 2/25/2019

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 14.4

**Catalog Description:**

Contemporary dance draws from ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary techniques. This Level IV 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 DANC 14.3 ( or DANCE 14.3)

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

Description: Contemporary dance draws from ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary techniques. This Level IV 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 DANC 14.3 ( or DANCE 14.3)

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:
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<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Spring 2014	Inactive:
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<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Spring 2014	Inactive:
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**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 IV contemporary dance sequences using applicable dance vocabulary.
2. Perform Level IV contemporary dance choreography applying Level IV techniques, musicality and performance skills.

**Objectives:**

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

1. Demonstrate Level IV competence in the ballet, jazz, and modern dance skills incorporated in contemporary dance choreography.
2. Incorporate Level IV 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 IV contemporary dance combination.
4. Differentiate between contemporary dance and other dance genres including ballet, modern, and jazz dance.
5. Demonstrate musicality in the performance and choreography of a Level IV 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, and jazz)
  - C. Level IV dance terminology and corresponding movement vocabulary incorporated in contemporary dance
- II. Level IV 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 IV dance sequences
- III. Level IV 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 IV 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 text book 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.

Instructor prepared materials