

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:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective: Fall 2000	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	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.