



KINESIOLOGY, ATHLETICS & DANCE

FALL 2017

Course Title: Dance 3.1, Choreography 1

Department KAD

Course Section: 1580

Units: 2

Days: Tuesday/Thursday

Class Times: 3:00-5:00

Instructor: Casandra Hillman

Classroom: Tauzer 951

Office Hours: M/W 11:00-1:00, Thursday 11:00-1:00, Friday by apt only

Email: chillman@santarosa.edu

Phone: (707) 527-4260

FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME: December 18th 1:00pm-3:45pm

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Notebook, folder for handouts and CANVAS, cell phone capabilities to record movement and archive (Google Photos is a great app for this to keep your cell storage from filling up).

REQUIRED TEXTS: *None* – All reading will be posted on CANVAS and emailed to students. Please make sure you are signed up for CANVAS and check emails daily.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the fundamentals of the choreographic process emphasizing basic principles of space, time and energy. Students will choreograph dance studies applying a variety of choreographic approaches.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: Completion of Dance 16.1 and Dance 10

PREREQUISITES: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Choreograph a dance or dance study that applies basic principles of choreography including the use of several choreographic devices.
2. Analyze choreographic elements incorporated in contemporary dance works including aspects of space, time and energy; form; climax; and choreographic devices.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Convey a concept, idea, or theme through choreography.
2. Explore the elements of dance (space, time, and energy) through dance improvisation and choreography.
3. Choreograph a phrase or dance study that includes a clear high point or climax.

4. Integrate choreography with musical accompaniment to support choreographic intention or theme.
5. Explore choreography in solo, duet, and/or small group formats.
6. Recognize choreographic elements in the work of other choreographers.
7. Critique dance studies in aesthetic terms.

OVERVIEW: In this class, we will explore the building blocks of choreography and learn how to construct a dance from the ground up. This will be done by exploring ideas and sources of creative inspiration and by improvising movement within choreographic theme and development techniques. Time will be spent, both in class and outside of class, learning how to generate movement material and identifying what to keep and what not to. An important part of the choreographer's toolbox is forming an understanding between music and dance. Is your dance supported by the music or does it overpower the other?

We will explore the basic elements of choreography such as design, use of space, thematic investigations and manipulating movement. We will also explore many aspects of creating a dance such as identifying movement motifs, constructing dance phrases, designing and shaping and then elaborating on that material giving them structure and form.

We will warm-up as a group at the beginning of class and then dive into different aspects mentioned above, introducing new concepts weekly. **The class will move quickly and requires courage and an open mind.** You will be working individually and in groups. In fact, I strongly encourage you to choreograph with each other and on each other. Doing so can help keep ideas flowing and bring to the surface new concepts through peer support.

The method used for teaching this class is primarily within the contextual framework of contemporary dance. These principals are not limited and can ultimately be applied to any form of dance. You are encouraged to explore the style of dance that interests you but I urge you to stay open to new possibilities. This is a studio class, which means this is your time to try out new ideas and experiment in a constructive and supportive environment. Dance is a community experience, supporting, shaping and guiding the creative spirit of your inner muse. Reading, viewing and talking about dance and composition can enhance learning about choreography but the only way to learn to choreograph is by doing it and **DOING IT A LOT!**

CLASS TIME: Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday 3:00-5:00. (Please do not get into the habit of arriving at late. There will be no class on Monday Sept 4th, November 13th).

TARDINESS: Arriving late (10 minutes or more) and/or leaving early will affect participation and grading, as points will be deducted. **Three late arrivals will automatically cause your grade to be lowered one letter grade and cannot be made up with extra credit points.** If you are late, enter the classroom quietly and take your seat without disturbing other students who are already working. **Students arriving after roll is taken are responsible for getting signed in or they will be counted absent.** **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students may miss 2 classes. Students who miss four or more classes will be dropped. Students are responsible for any missed information during absences. *See SRJC attendance requirements and policy.*

PARTICIPATION: Learning comes through ongoing practical experience watching, writing about and discussion of movement. To pass this course you must take notes. Bring a notebook and writing materials to each class. You will be required to read articles from the field of dance studies and view videos online as homework Go to the CANVAS site to download the syllabus and for readings, video links, assignments and rubrics. Make sure to sign up on CANVAS for alerts. We will also have fish bowl discussions/debates about selected choreographers and their work which all students are required be fully engaged in.

LETTER GRADE ONLY:

*Reading/Written - 20% Weekly reading assignments will be assigned that correspond to the current choreographic project to better enhance the understanding of the assignment. Written responses to the readings will be submitted on CANVAS. These will count as your weekly journals. Journal Writing - At the end of each week make a journal entry recording reactions and thoughts inspired by your creative process, your search in solving the assigned problems. Record your responses to personal improvisations. What is re-occurring? What feedback are you getting in terms of strong sensations or potent ideas? Observe and note the insights you derive from viewing the work of your classmates.

*Attendance and Participation/Choreographic Exercises- 50% **Mindful participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.** It is essential that you are prepared to participate fully in every class. The quality of participation in class will also reflect in your grade. Students will be given weekly choreographic assignments in class. **Choreographic Exercises-** The majority of our time in class will be spent on composing dance studies, which will then be performed in class and reviewed through group class discussion. I believe that much of our understanding comes through the doing. I will give structured movement assignments, or shells, and you will fill them in. We will engage in improvisations during class, an activity that will help define assignments and stimulate creativity. When evaluating your choreographic studies, I will be looking for movement invention, clarity of intention and depth of exploration. When showing your dances in class, it is absolutely essential that you fully perform your studies. Choreography is rich with nuances, and it is therefore impossible to capture the clear intentions of your work without well-rehearsed dancing. I am not talking about extraordinary technique, but I am referring to a complete engagement into the moment of each movement.

*Exams-30% There will be two exams. The midterm will take place on Wednesday October 23rd during class and the final will take place on Monday December 18th during the designated time during finals week.

FINAL EXAM: Choreographing final projects will include: Choosing a subject/theme, casting, theme and development in choreography, selecting music, costumes, props, outlining rehearsals, deciding on a title, submitting program notes and a.....

FINAL PAPER ABOUT YOUR ENTIRE PROCESS, 3 PAGES, 1.5 SPACING, TIMES, TURNED IN ON THE FINAL DAY, NO EMAILED OR LATE PAPERS.

LATE WORK / MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: There are no make-ups for the midterm or the final. Points will be deducted for late work.

ETIQUETTE: TURN YOUR PHONE TO SILENT OR OFF!! Students will be excused from class for excessive phone use. If the student has to be excused more than 3 times, the student will be dropped from the class. *Find your focus when in class. Commit to being present and alert the entire time. *Please clean up after yourself if you bring food or drinks into the classroom.

ADDITIONAL CLASS INFORMATION:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Any student who employs dishonest tactics shall be subject to action ranging from severe reprimand to a grade of "F." Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own newly composed, unless designated otherwise. Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty or facilitating any such act are not acceptable conduct at Santa Rosa Junior College. Every student is responsible for understanding the categories as listed in the SRJC Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended [for one or two class meetings by the instructor] and referred to the Vice President of Student Services for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please read the college policy/procedure on academic integrity at:

<http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/3acadpro/3.11P.pdf>

STUDENT CONDUCT: We will conduct ourselves in a manner which reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Code (http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/scs/section1.shtml) and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from two (2) classes and referred to Vice President of Student Services for discipline.

SOCIAL UTILITY USE: Be aware that the instructor is also on social networking sites and checks in often to those sites to be attuned to what is going on and stay in touch. Please know that what is posted on these types of pages is viewed by a wide array of people. Use wise judgment when posting.

SRJC CAMPUSES: Please remember that SRJC is not crime free. Please practice safety awareness procedures such as using the buddy system and being vigilant in all closed areas (restrooms/locker rooms) and in parking lots when coming or going from your car. In case of Emergency: **CALL DISTRICT POLICE at 527-1000 (just the extension 1000 from an on-campus phone) or call 911.**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Our class will meet in the parking lot to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. *(If the class is on a second or higher floor, provide clear directions to the stairs).* If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

In the event of instances which involve the presence of blood and/or other body fluids, universal precautions will be followed. These precautions include: using gloves, careful waste disposal, adequate disinfections, modification of CPR, and hand washing.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located on the 3rd floor of the Bertolini Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus. *If you have medical concerns or any other personal problem which may be a factor in your performance within this class structure, please feel welcome to **confidentially** discuss this with your instructor.

ATTACHMENT:

1- WEEKLY SCHEDULE