

**Dance Ensemble Syllabus**  
**Dance 29 Section #1601**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 3:30 pm**  
**Instructors/Directors: Cassandra Hillman & Tanya Tolmasoff**

**Course Description:** In Ensemble, instructors and students collaboratively create a theme-based performance designed to entertain, enlighten, and educate children about dance as an art form. In this class, you will rehearse student and faculty pieces and ultimately perform a fast-paced, 25 minute long, non-stop show in a variety of school venues within the community. *In Ensemble you are part of a dance company. Instructors act as Directors of the company and the performance making final decisions on content including music, props, casting, and costuming.* To create a richer learning experience, students will be in charge of many aspects of the production process including costuming, publicity, and fundraising.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** *By the conclusion of the semester students will be able to:*

1. Demonstrate the behavior expected of professional dancers during dance rehearsal and performance processes.
2. Demonstrate essential dance performance skills in diverse performance situations.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based on attendance and participation in committees, rehearsals, and performances; teamwork; written assignments; and skill demonstrations.

**Total points possible = 100    91-100 = A    81-90 = B    71-80 = C    61-69 =D, < 61 = F**

**Attendance and Participation = 50 points i.e. 50% of grade**

- ❖ ***Attendance/Participation worth 25 points:*** Students are expected to attend each class, arrive on time, and participate fully. Each student will start out with 25 attendance/participation points. For each *unexcused* absence, 5 points will be deducted. If a student misses 2 classes *unexcused* s/he will receive a warning and if there is a 3rd unexcused absence, the student may be dropped from the company and the class. **No points will be deducted for excused absences** but no more than 2 absences can qualify as "excused". Any conflicts listed on the form filled out at beginning of semester will be considered excused (up to 2 classes max). Otherwise excused absences are at instructors' discretion and typically are confined to extreme medical situations supported by a doctor's note. Additional points may also be deducted from this category for habitual lateness, excessive sit outs, or an overall low participation level throughout the semester.
- ❖ ***Committees & Teamwork worth 25 points:*** All students are expected to pitch in at *each and every* rehearsal/performance to set up and strike props, sets, costumes, etc. Specific tasks related to fundraising, publicity and costumes will be assigned. Points awarded are based on completion of assigned tasks and the degree to which student meets or exceeds expectations including meeting designated deadlines for assignments.

**Skill Demonstration = 25 points i.e. 25% of grade**

Students will be evaluated in these areas:

- Demonstration of ability to warm-up oneself prior to rehearsals
- Knowledge of choreography from rehearsal to rehearsal
- Accurate reproduction of choreography in performance
- Work ethic toward the choreography in rehearsals
- Evidence of practice outside of rehearsals
- Application of dance technique to rehearsal material
- Performance skills/energy in rehearsals and performance
- Professionalism (see handout)
- Personal costuming and costume organization
- Choreographers are responsible for designing, selecting, and organizing costumes for their dances.\*
- Choreographers are expected to act as role models for all dancers throughout the rehearsal and performance process, exhibiting a high level of professionalism and respect for fellow dancers and directors.

\*All costumes are subject to director approval.

### **Written Assignments – Worth 15 points i.e. 15% of grade.**

To receive full points, papers must be turned in on time (*with or without a reminder from instructor*) and demonstrate thoughtful reflection and college level writing.

1. **Midterm Paper = 5 points** **Due: Thursday, October 26, 2017** (hard copy only please, no emailed papers). 2-3 complete sentences for each dance in which you are performing, stating: 1) Your understanding of the theme of the dance, 2) the character you are playing, and 3) the emotion(s) to be conveyed in performance including appropriate facial expression(s).
2. **Essay Exam = 10 points** Guidelines on writing an essay and possible exam topics will be provided in advance.

### **Winter Spotlight Dance Gala December 14/15- Worth 10 points i.e. 10%**

As well as the performance in the elementary schools, there will be a performance open to the public in Tauzer Black Box Theater at 7:00pm. Dancers are required to help with set-up and break-down. More information about this performance schedule TBA.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising, marketing, and promotion of the shows are vital to supporting this program. Donations obtained from outside supporters are due October 26<sup>th</sup>. EACH DANCER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING AT LEAST \$25.00. Fundraising also shows investment and community support. A lack of promotional participation, could affect student grade.

**Texts/Supplemental Materials:** There is no text for this class. Students will need to provide or purchase basic costume pieces worn under other costumes, any "closet search" type costume items required, and any dance shoes required for specific dances (for example sneakers for hip hop dance).

**FINAL:** Thursday, December 21st from 10:00am to 12:45. In addition to taking the final essay exam, all costumes will be returned at this time (*laundered and folded*). Final may include additional activities, to be revealed.

### **Contact Info:**

**Casandra Hillman:** (707) 527-4260 office (510) 325-6118 cell ; Email: [chillman@santarosa.edu](mailto:chillman@santarosa.edu)

**Tanya Tolmasoff:** (707) 322-7309 cell; Email: [TTolmasoff@santarosa.edu](mailto:TTolmasoff@santarosa.edu) or [ttolmasoff@gmail.com](mailto:ttolmasoff@gmail.com)

**Required Notification of lateness or absence:** Please call or text the instructor of the day (**i.e. Casandra on Tuesday or Tanya on Thursday**) if you are running late *or* will be missing class (including rehearsals and performances) *for any reason*. To fulfill professional expectations (and to qualify for a possible excused absence), you need to call *prior* to class starting time (i.e. before 12:30 p.m.) or *prior* to the designated arrival time for a performance!

### **Ensemble Directors' Office Hours:**

Room 955 upstairs- Casandra- Tuesday before class 12-12:25/ Tanya Tuesday before class 12-12:25

\*Casandra Hillman regular office hours: M/W 11:00-1:00, Thursdays 11:00-1:00(by apt), Friday by apt.

*For this is my message, the message of a dancer. Within your being, within your mind and your living body, lies a world of joy and power. Within you lies a kingdom that you know little of. The kingdom of fearless living, of sharing love and the unfolding glory of your infinite being. All this and more is yours. –Ruth St. Denis*