

DANCE 10.2 Introduction to Dance Genres

INSTRUCTOR: Alyce Finwall

Summer 2018

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introductory dance class is designed for the student with no dance training in the three theatrical dance forms: ballet, jazz and modern. This class will familiarize students with the unique attributes of these three genres of dance. This course will include units on each of the dance forms which will introduce the student to the basic skills, techniques, and vocabulary of each genre. The idea of this class is for students to both experience the dance forms in the context of a dance class and to learn about each dance form.

Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the semester if all goes according to plan, you will be able to:

1. Perform basic dance vocabulary, skills, and techniques of ballet, jazz, and modern dance.
2. Apply dance terminology to identify basic dance movements, skills, steps and/or techniques specific to ballet, jazz and modern dance.
3. Participate safely in a beginning level class in any of the three dance forms.

Attire: Proper dance attire is an important aspect of the discipline of dance. If you look like a dancer – you will dance more like a dancer! **You may be asked to sit out if you fail to show up in proper attire.**

What to wear:

- Dancewear or exercise attire in which you can move and feel comfortable.
- Appropriate footwear for dance forms – ideally ballet slippers for ballet, jazz shoes for jazz section, bare feet for modern segment.
- Hair should be worn in a manner that keeps it off your face and out of your way.

What not to wear:

- Jeans or any pants designed for street wear; button up shirts; low cut or revealing attire.
- Skirts
- Anything that restricts your range of motion

My expectations of you. As a student in my class, I expect you to:

1. Arrive on time.
2. Bring in a positive attitude, work hard and have fun.
3. Check email frequently. Materials and links will be sent on a regular basis. Please make sure my email does not end up in your junk mail folder.
4. Read any handouts provided.
5. Take responsibility for catching yourself up if absent (reach out to instructor by email to find out what you missed, talk to T.A. or fellow student, etc.)
6. Kindly refrain from conversing when we are dancing or when I am making announcements, conveying information, explaining or cuing exercises.
7. *Stay on your feet* unless we are doing floor work.
8. Practice the material taught in class for an average of approximately 10 minutes per day.
9. Silence your cell phone upon entering the studio – please do not look at phone during class.
10. Refrain from chewing gum during class. If there is a medical reason why you need to chew gum, I need a doctor's note explaining otherwise please get rid of gum when asked to do so.
11. Support your fellow students by applauding their efforts (at the appropriate moments)
12. Stay until class is dismissed and applaud at the end to create a sense of closure to each class.

Grading Policy: Grading is on a point system. 100 points are possible.

90-100 points = A, 80-89 points = B, 70-79 points=C, 60-69 points = D, <60 points = F

I. Attendance/Participation: Up to 40 points

Each student starts with 40 attendance/participation points. The first 2 absences will be freebies and I will not deduct any points. After that every absence for any reason will be minus 2 points from 40.

A. Excused Absences (4 maximum) will be granted *only* for medical reasons or conflicts due to school-related activities such as participation in a play. Sorry no work-related absences will be excused. In order to receive an excused absence, present instructor with an *official* note from your health care provider, SRJC Health Services, or if from a school instructor *on school letterhead* (for

school related absence). No notes from a parent or other relative. The note should state that you were unable to attend class on a specific date or range of dates and the reason. ***Excused absences will not be granted without official written verification and are granted at instructor's discretion.***

B. Sit outs for injury or illness

Sitting out should be rare and for *extreme* circumstances. **If you sit out you will receive 1 point for that class if you take notes and turn them in at the end of class.** You can get this partial credit *only twice* over the course of the semester. If you are too sick or too injured – please stay home. If you have an infectious disease please keep your germs at home! ***If you become injured during class please stop dancing, sit down on the side and I will check with you and make sure you are OK. This will not count as a sit out.***

II. "Skill demonstrations" = Worth 30 points total

A. There will be a skills assessment process worth 5 points at the end of each unit (3 assessments).

B. Final Project TBA worth 15 points. Will be part of the final.*

III. Unit Quizzes and Final Exam. = Worth 20 points total (5 points each). Dates TBA.

IV. Written Assignment: Worth 20 points total 500 word essay on a live or filmed dance performance which may include professional dance, college, high school, or studio dance performances. Further guidelines will be provided.

****Our official final exam period:
TBA***

I am available M-TH immediately following class, or you can email me. I check email frequently.
afinwall@santarosa.edu

Notice of absences: Please let me know if you will be missing class, especially more than once. Preferably notify me by email. *Just remember that notifying me that you will be absent does not assure an excused absence but it shows me how responsible you are and is greatly appreciated.*

<p>Dance training may be too strenuous for some individuals with certain medical conditions. If you have any condition that limits your physical activities consult your doctor before participating! Please inform instructor of any conditions that may impair your ability to participate fully. If you have any type of disability for which you need special accommodations please visit our Disability Resources Department and provide me with an accommodation letter.</p>

***IF YOU BECOME INJURED DURING CLASS,
PLEASE STOP DANCING AND ADVISE ME IMMEDIATELY.
Talk to me after class about any non-acute aches or pains that come up during class.***