

DANC 47 Course Outline as of Summer 2025**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: DANC 47 Title: AFRICAN DANCE I
 Full Title: Dances of the African Diaspora I
 Last Reviewed: 1/25/2021

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	0.75	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	13.13
Minimum	1.00	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: 34 - 4 Enrollments Total
 Also Listed As:
 Formerly: DANCE 47

Catalog Description:

This course will introduce students to African Diaspora dance, specifically the history, technique and performance of various styles of African Dance from the Caribbean, Haiti, Senegal, Guinea, Nigera and the Congo regions of Africa. This course will emphasize musicality and the introduction of percussive rhythms as well as increase students' endurance, coordination, agility and flexibility.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:****Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course will introduce students to African Diaspora dance, specifically the history, technique and performance of various styles of African Dance from the Caribbean, Haiti, Senegal, Guinea, Nigera and the Congo regions of Africa. This course will emphasize musicality and the introduction of percussive rhythms as well as increase students' endurance,

coordination, agility and flexibility. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended:

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: 4 Enrollments Total

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:

IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
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CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2021	Inactive:
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UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2022	Inactive:
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CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Execute and analyze beginning (Level 1) African Diasporic dance sequences using applicable dance vocabulary.
2. Perform beginning (Level 1) African Diasporic dance choreography.
3. Choreograph a beginning (Level 1) African Diasporic dance combination.

Objectives:

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

1. Exercise basic steps that exist in African Diaspora dance techniques.
2. Perform African Diaspora dance movements with appropriate stylistic nuances.
3. Choreograph original dance sequences in beginning African Diaspora dance.
4. Display performance skills in presentation of beginning African Diaspora dance choreography.
5. Identify basic rhythmic concepts and relate them to the execution of beginning African Diaspora dance movement.
6. Critique an African Diaspora dance performance.
7. Distinguish between traditional and staged African Diaspora dances.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Brief overview of African Diaspora Dance Cultures
 - A. Origins of African Diaspora dance and cultures
 - B. Defining African Diaspora cultures and their relation to dance
 1. Why people dance
 2. Customs and traditions that include dance

3. Analysis of basic dance patterns found in African Diaspora dance cultures
 4. Difference between village dance and staged choreography
- II. Beginning African Diaspora dance technique
- A. Technical principles such as well grounded plies; alignment of spine; off-center movement; initiation of movement with breath and core
 - B. Locomotor movements such as walks, runs, leaps, turns, rolls
 - C. Movement reflecting the everyday tasks within African Diaspora cultures
 - D. Floor exercises to prepare muscles for the rigor of dances to be taught
 1. Warming-up for increase circulation
 2. Stretching for flexibility
 3. Extremity and core strengthening exercises
 - E. Rhythmic exercises to prepare for the syncopations to be used
 - F. Center combinations
- III. Performance skills
- A. Projection (refine choreography vs. thematic improvisation)
 - B. Dynamic qualities (heaviness of harvest and lightness of praise)
 - C. Theatrics and narrative of dance movements (storyline and attitude of the people)
- IV. Choreography
- A. Creating movement based on the life-style of African Diaspora cultures
 - B. Making use of written handouts, videos, pictures, and dance steps learned in class to create personal African Diaspora dance

All topics are covered in the lecture and lab portions of the course.

Assignment:

Lecture-Related Assignments:

1. Weekly practice of instructor choreography and dance skills covered in class sessions (ungraded)
2. Choreographing original dance movement either alone or with a group
3. Written critique of an African Diasporic dance piece or performance approved by instructor
4. Reading of class handouts
5. Brief research on an African Diaspora dance cultures to be applied to the choreography for reinforcement (participation)

Lab-Related Assignments:

1. African Diasporic dance class activities assessed in terms of technique and performances
2. One to three performance exams
3. Note taking when appropriate (participation)
4. Practice sessions (participation)
5. Written exams (2 - 4)

Optional Alternative Assignments:

1. African Diasporic dance online video viewing and analysis (participation)
2. Interviewing of an African Diasporic dance technician in an individual/group (participation)
3. Reflective Journal

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 of an African Diasporic dance performance,
Optional Reflective Journal

Writing
10 - 20%

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.

Choreography and performance exams

Skill Demonstrations
20 - 40%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Written Exams

Exams
10 - 20%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and Participation

Other Category
30 - 50%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Instructor prepared materials

African American Dance: An Illustrated History. Glass, Barbara. McFarland. 2012 (classic)

Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora. Das, Joanna Dee. Oxford University Press. 2017