

Dance 1210: Jazz
Department of Modern Dance—Fall 2013 2 credits

Instructor: Sarah Franco

Email: sarah.franco@utah.edu

Phone: 801-651-7193

Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description:

In Cultural Dance Forms: Jazz students study the evolution of jazz dance technique over time. Emphasis is placed upon cultural exploration, styling, rhythmic accuracy, alignment, and phrasing. Using lecture, video, discussion, physicality, creativity, performance, and evaluation we study many forms of jazz technique, look for similarities and differences between techniques, and become proficient in each style.

Objectives:

This course aims to:

1. Increase students' ability to adapt to and master diverse styles of jazz dance
2. Improve students' jazz skills, alignment, flexibility, and strength
3. Invite students to investigate their own movement preferences
4. Explore the use of language to articulate jazz dance steps, qualities, and sensations
5. Invite students to contribute to discussions and fully participate in studio activities

Requirements and Expectations:

1. Consistent Attendance- For the entire semester you are allowed **two** absences without penalty. After those two, your semester grade will be lowered by 1/3 letter grade per absence (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) If a student arrives after roll, it is the student's responsibility to inform me of their presence after class. Class observations, leaving early, and late arrivals count as ½ absence. The observing student must take notes and hand them in for observation credit. Arriving or leaving more than 15 minutes into class time counts as an absence.

If you are absent it is 100% your responsibility to get with a classmate and learn the material you missed. Missed evaluations cannot be made up unless you communicate with me before class that day. Accommodation for injury, serious illness, or special circumstances may be made, but please communicate with me before missing class.

2. Participation

The University of Utah has established a reputation of excellence. I expect you to be in class, actively participating, striving for improvement. This includes listening to questions and corrections and applying them to your dancing. Consistent chattiness will negatively affect the student's grade.

Grading in participation will include the student's attitude, performance, improvement, willingness to assimilate corrections, and desire for improvement as demonstrated by in-class work ethic. Dancers who push their bodies to the limit each day, work hard to learn the combinations, and refine the details of their dancing will be rewarded in this area.

Class Notebook: Please retain one notebook for this class only. Use it throughout the semester for note taking, self-reflection, goal setting, and to prepare you for your final solo. We will transition between movement, discussion, and writing in class. Your notebook will be graded as a credit/no credit and will be part of your participation grade.

3. Dance Evaluations

In this course you will learn many short dances. We will investigate each style for alignment, shape, and movement quality. After working in class and on your own, we will have an evaluation. Evaluations are scored based upon your application of form, rhythm, dynamics, style, performance, and effort. See the course calendar (subject to change) and listen carefully in class for evaluation dates. Missed evaluations cannot be made up unless we have communicated in advance.

4. Final Solo

For your final project you will make a solo that explores movement of your choice by assimilating one, or a few, of the movement qualities embedded in the styles we study throughout the semester.

Your solo should:

1. Be between 1:00-1:30
2. Have a title
3. Have a costume
4. Be of your choreography and design
5. Have a clear beginning, middle, and end
6. Be clear, precise, and fully performed
7. Be for this class only. Solos created for other classes may not be used

Final solos will be performed December 12th during class time.

Solos cannot be made up unless prior arrangements are made.

5. Final Paper

After choreographing your solo, write a 3-page, double-spaced, 12-point font, paper reflecting upon your creation. As you reflect upon your solo and begin writing, thoroughly explain the following:

1. WHAT style you explored
2. WHY you selected that focus(s)
3. HOW your solo succeeds and/or fails at demonstrating assimilated class concepts.
4. HOW you would improve your solo if you had limitless resources

Be honest but specific. Avoid dangling general statements. Use specific examples from your solo as support for your ideas.

Final papers are due in class December 12th. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day late. Papers may not be emailed.

Grading Breakdown:

Attendance penalties are applied to your final grade.

Participation 55%

Evaluations 30%

Final Solo 15%

Final Paper 5%

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.