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ELEMENTARY MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUE **Dance 2276B / 2024**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studies begun in Introduction to Modern Dance Technique are continued and developed to give a deeper understanding of the movement skills and theoretical materials that apply to the technical study of Modern Dance. Half course: six hours lecture/laboratory. (In-Person Format)
Prerequisite: Dance 2275A/B or permission of the Faculty.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Exposure to specific technical warm-up patterns
2. More complex movement skills
3. Emotional and intellectual stimuli for movement expression.
4. Rhythmical and musical aspects of movement qualities.
5. More complicated locomotor and non-locomotor movement patterns.
6. Presentation of specific movement patterns that demonstrate different qualitative approaches to focus, use of space and movement attack.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to expand the student's understanding of movement skills and concepts developed in the introductory course (Dance 2275A/B). Directed and creative movement experiences will be more challenging. The course will also include the analysis and application of kinesiological, psychological, physiological and rhythmical aspects of human movement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

1. To become familiar with terms associated with the organization of dance, its form and structure.
2. To make connections between dance and related areas (visual art, music, sports, drama, literature, science).
3. To become familiar with terms used in music that can define more accurately rhythmic aspects of movement. (meter, accent, phrasing, rhythm pattern, beat, tempo.)
4. To encourage individualized artistic expression through the acquisition of more advanced technical and performance skills.
5. To help establish a realistic self-image based on the individual's physical body and its potential range for movement.
6. To encourage greater movement potential by developing a willingness to explore new movement.
7. To explore and enhance the capacity for self expression through dance movement.

COURSE FORMAT

Class sessions will explore: (1) floor warm-ups; (2) standing warm-ups; (3) floor progressions; (4) specific movement patterns and/or movement exploration.

Theoretical components such as movement analysis, anatomical analysis, rhythmic analysis, and performance aspects are taught in the context of the technical skills being learned or mastered by the students.

It is impossible to be specific as to the day to day content or progress of each class. The backgrounds of the students, their ability to master the technical skills presented, and the ability of the instructor to present the technical problems in a manner in which the students can understand and transfer into movement will always make every technique class slightly unique.

EVALUATION

40% Work in class

Students will be evaluated on learning, improvement and performance of the movement material presented in class. This will include weekly journal topics that are assigned in relation to specific technical skills or performance development. The instructor will ask to see the student's journal two or three times during the course.

20% Personal Technical Challenge

This assignment is designed to improve the ability to analyze kinesthetic and anatomical factors that interfere with, delay, alter or prevent the acquisition of discrete movement skills essential to dance technique.

The students and the instructor will identify and discuss areas of personal movement strength and weakness.

- Students will outline the challenges and determine a plan of action according to specific directions that will be provided.
- Students will be expected to submit a summary evaluation of their work and success.

20% Movement Pattern Showing Variation in Dance Styles

This assignment is designed to facilitate the development of an original movement pattern using distinct styles and movement qualities. Working in small groups, the final product will be presented.

20% Solo Presentation

This assignment is a final dance technique composition that the student will compose and present to demonstrate improvement in skill level and ability to apply performance skills. Each student will be given specific challenges to be included in the creation of the composition.

Attendance is mandatory. You may have 3 un-excused absences. When students are unable to participate physically due to illness or minor injury, they are encouraged to attend class and watch. It may be possible to make up some missed classes by arrangement with the instructor.

COURSE TIMETABLE

January 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin evaluation of student's technical abilities. Class work will focus on assessing and introducing material to improve technical knowledge, skill level, and individual artistic expression.
January 15 - 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline and assign the specific technical skills that students will be analyzing in their Personal Technical Challenge Assignment.
January 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First part of the Personal Technical Challenge Assignment is due. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify specific areas of weakness and strength - outline the challenges and determine a plan of action
February 19 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Week: No Class
Feb 28 - March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss, set groups, and select movement material for Movement Pattern Showing Variation in Dance Styles Assignment.
March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm dates for presentations of Movement Patterns Showing Variation in Dance Styles.
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and assign final solo dance compositions.
March 20 & 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Movement Patterns Showing Variation in Dance Styles.
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final written summary evaluation of the Personal Technical Challenge Assignment is due.
April 3 & 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform final solo dance compositions.

DRESS FOR CLASS

Women	- ankle length tights/leggings (footless or stirrup); leotard/top (any colour or cut) or unitard.
Men	- tights/leggings (men's weight footless or stirrup) or form fitting gymnastic or jogging pants; T-shirt.
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no shoes but turning thongs or socks can be used when working on turning skills. - hair <u>must</u> be tied back out of the way of face and neck. - jewelry is not appropriate if it is loose or distracts you during class. You may be asked to remove it! - warm-up suits, pants or shirts can be used over your normal dance clothes, but you should be prepared to remove them.

Important information to consider:

Students must turn their cell phones off during class. No pictures or videos can be taken without permission of the instructor and participant(s).

Instructor's policy on attendance and late assignments: If you are unable to attend a class, please make every effort to let the instructor know in advance by email (preferably). Full attendance at all classes is expected and medical documentation is required unless you have the instructor's permission to be absent. Unexplained absences will result in a reduction in your participation grade. Students with medical documentation or an acceptable excuse for an absence will not be penalized. Late written assignments will only be accepted and graded if permission has been granted by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

Important Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites: Introduction to Modern Dance 2275a/b.** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

*Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Additional applicable statements

- i) **Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.
- ii) **Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).
- iii) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.
- iv) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).
- v) **Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams:** These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.