  
**Dance Composition   
Central College**

**DANC 1301 – Dance Composition**

CRN 83792 - Spring 2014

Central Campus – Theater One, Studio Q | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | T/TH

3 hour lecture course / 48 hours per semester/ 16 weeks

**Instructor: Maggie Lasher**

**Instructor Contact Information: 713-718-6585 megan.lasher@hccs.edu**

**Office location and hours:**

**Location-** Theater One, Studio Q, room 104

**Hours-** by appointment and before and after class

*Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance*. *Your performance in my class is very important to me*

**Catalogue Description:**

This course explores expansion of movement vocabulary through improvisation and compositional techniques. Students will create and perform group and solo movement studies.

**Course Description:**

Emphasis is placed on learning and developing basic choreographic tools, specifically seeds and permutations, spatial design, rhythm and dynamics, and form. Lectures, videos, in-class exercises and discussions will give students a chance to explore these fundamentals of choreography. This course will introduce a variety of ways to generate choreographic material and each student will create a “bag of tricks” to serve in future choreographic endeavors. Students will also practice and refine ways of discussing and notating choreography and at the end of the semester each student must turn in a journal detailing their discoveries on the choreographic process.

This is a movement-based class. Therefore, students must come to class in appropriate attire and be ready to move.

**SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards**

*Credit: 3 (2 lecture/2 lab)*

This course explores expansion of movement vocabulary through improvisation and compositional techniques. Students will create and perform group and solo movement studies.

**Prerequisites**Core curriculum course

**Course Goal**

Engage students in the dance making process

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Apply composition techniques to create movement phrases.
2. Perform movement studies.
3. Demonstrate improvisational techniques such as trust and creativity.
4. Participate in constructive discussion and analysis of movement.
5. Develop individual creative voice through improvisational, compositional, and performance technique.

**Course Objectives:**

* Develop an understanding of basic choreographic tools
* Explore a variety of ways to generate choreographic material
* Examine the use of rhythm and music
* Develop and practice ways of notating and discussing choreography
* Be able to identify and use different sources and tools to generate ideas for choreography
* Demonstrate performance skill in interpreting and communicating through dance

**Course Requirements:** In addition to class assignments, attendance and participation will make up an important part of your final grade.

*Final Solo Study*- A 2-3 minute solo final study will be presented at the end of the semester during finals week. In addition to the final presentation, students will submit in writing the theme and development of their solo and show their progress on the solo throughout the semester. Students will be graded on the progress and development of their solo as well as the final outcome.

*Mini Studies*- Students will be given a variety of mini choreographic projects that will be shown throughout the semester for a grade. These projects will be assigned and presented in class on the same day, adding to the importance of class attendance.

*Outside Performance-* Students are required to attend one approved professional dance concert and submit a written critique following the guidelines handed out in class. Performance options will be discussed in class, and you are free to ask the instructor about other performances you may be interested in attending. Once you see a concert you have two weeks to get the critique turned in. You have the entire semester to complete the critique, but critiques turned in before spring break will be given five points extra credit.

*Central Dance Ensemble Concert (CDE4)*- students are required to attend the Central Dance Ensemble concert April 25 & 26. The Tuesday following the concert students will take a simple quiz to check for concert attendance. If you do not attend this concert you will be required to attend an additional live concert in the community and turn in a concert critique, or you will receive a zero for this course requirement.

*Participation and Engagement*- For each mini study and during class times where students are working on their own or in a group, students will be graded on their participation and engagement. During these class work sessions students are expected to be engaged in the choreographic process and not spending time on their cell phones or tablets, working on outside dance combinations, sleeping, reading, doing homework for other classes, or any activity other than working on the choreography project at hand. Students will be graded on participation and engagement in addition to the grade they receive on their choreographic presentations. Please note, this is a dance class, and therefore requires one to move. During class work times I expect students to be up and moving, not writing notes.

**Grade Determination:**

Final Solo Study 25%

Mini Studies and concert critique 55%

Participation and Engagement 20%

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to be in the studio by 11:00 pm. Class will begin promptly at 1:05. At that time, roll will be taken and any student not present will be marked absent for the day. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to see the instructor after class to be marked tardy for the day; otherwise an absence will be recorded. Three tardies and/or early departures are equal to one absence.

If you are ill, injured, or tardy to class and do not participate in the movement activities, you must take notes and hand these in at the end of class to receive any participation credit. If you are unable to participate for more than three classes your grade will suffer; therefore if you have any health concerns please contact the instructor ASAP to discuss your options.

Attendance and participation are crucial to this course and the class moves quickly. Class material cannot be found in a book, and can only be received by students being present in class. To be successful in this course it is imperative that you have good attendance. Students are only allowed three absences before their participation and engagement grade, and ultimately their course grade, is affected.

If a student encounters an emergency involving substantial absences they must talk to the

instructor either before or during the prolonged absence. The instructor reserves the right to

evaluate these situations on a case by case basis and may or may not be able to work out an

alternative to attending class. If a student approaches the instructor after a prolonged absence, no

absences can be made up.

Five extra credit points will be given for perfect attendance.

**Attire:**

Students are required to wear comfortable clothing that will allow them full range of movement. Leotards, footless tights, modern/jazz style pants, sweat pants, t-shirts, and tank tops are acceptable as long as they are not overly loose fitting. Khakis, jeans, bell-sleeves or loose tunic tops are not permitted. Clothes that do not adequately cover your chest or your behind are also not permitted. Students that come to class without the appropriate attire will be asked to it out for the class and take notes.

**Calendar:**

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| --- | --- |
| January/February | First mini studies assigned, first solo showing TBA- students will be notified of the showing at least two class periods prior |
| March | Next batch of mini studies, second solo showing TBA- students will be notified of the showing at least two class periods prior |
| April | Final batch of mini studies, attend the ADDE concert, third solo showing TBA- students will be notified of the showing at least two class periods prior |
| May | Finish work on final study and present during finals week, concert critique due |

**Instructional Methods:**

As an instructor, I want my students to be successful. I feel that it is my responsibility to provide you with knowledge concerning the field of dance, modeling good teaching strategies, and organizing and monitoring the field experience that allows you to connect the information that you learn in this course to the real world of dance.

As a student wanting to learn about the field of dance, it is your responsibility to submit assignments on the due dates, participate in classroom activities, attend class, and enjoy yourself while experiencing the real world of dance**.**

As I believe that engaging the students in the learning is essential for teaching to be effective, you will spend the majority of class time involved in collaborative activities. You will be involved in discussions with your classmates and your instructor. As you will want to contribute to these discussions, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss, analyze and evaluate information from your journal activities, previous classes, and any assigned readings.

**A Word about Cell Phones & MP3 Players:**

Once class has begun all technological devices will be silenced and put away out of sight. If you are caught using any sort of technical device during class the instructor reserves the right to confiscate said equipment until class is over and your participation and engagement grade will be effected.

**HCC Policy Statement - ADA**

Services to Students with Disabilities  
Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7910 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty is only authorized to provide accommodations by the Disability Support Service Office

**HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty**

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. “Scholastic dishonesty”: includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:

* Copying from another students’ test paper;
* Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
* Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
* Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
* Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.
* Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for credit.
* Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

**HCC Policy Statements**

*Class Attendance - It is important that you come to class!*Attending class regularly is the best way to succeed in this class. Research has shown that the single most important factor in student success is attendance. Simply put, going to class greatly increases your ability to succeed. You are expected to attend all lecture and labs regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Class attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences.

If you are not attending class, you are not learning the information. As the information that is discussed in class is important for your career, students may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5% hours of instruction. The six hours of class time would include any total classes missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving class early.

You may decide NOT to come to class for whatever reason. As an adult making the decision not to attend, you do not have to notify the instructor prior to missing a class. However, if this happens too many times, you may suddenly find that you have “lost” the class.

Poor attendance records tend to correlate with poor grades. If you miss any class, including the first week, you are responsible for all material missed. It is a good idea to find a friend or a buddy in class who would be willing to share class notes or discussion or be able to hand in paper if you unavoidably miss a class.

Class attendance equals class success.

**HCC Course Withdrawal Policy**If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals **throughout** their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor *may* “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you **MUST** contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. \*\*Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. ***Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline.***  If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

**Repeat Course Fee**The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

**Classroom Behavior**As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

**Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices**As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations

**Instructor Requirements**

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to**:**

* Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
* Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
* Description of any special projects or assignments
* Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
* Provide the course outline and class calendar
* Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required