  
**Dance Praticum IV  
Central College**

**DANC 2112 Dance Praticum IV**

CRN 70204 Fall 2013

Central Campus – Theater One, Studio Q |3-6 pm M/W

4 lab hour course / 64 hours per semester / 12 weeks

**Instructor: Maggie Lasher**

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

**Office location and hours:**

**Location-** Theater One, Studio Q, rm. 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 my assistance. You performance in my class is very important to me.*

**Course Description**

This course offers students the opportunity to engage in rehearsal and performance of student dance works in the making under the direction of faculty.

**Purpose**

To give students the opportunity to experience the process of being in a pre-professional dance

company. Students will gain first hand knowledge of the process of producing dance works from

inception to performance. In the fall semester, students will particularly focus on generating their own original choreography and experience working with each other as choreographers and dancers.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE FROM THE REHEARSAL PROCESS TO THE CULMINATING PERFORMANCE.

2. APPLY CORRECTIONS AND CRITIQUES TO IMPROVE OVERALL PERFORMANCE.

3. EVALUATE AND EXECUTE ARTISTIC INTEGRITY OF CHOREOGRAPHY.

4. LEARN AND PERFORM CHOREOGRAPHY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES.

**Required Work**

The required work for this class is seemingly simple. All it takes is dedication and commitment. This class is all about participation and therefore you are expected to come to class every time and be committed to the process of creating dance works. In addition to being engaged and in class, students will also be expected to help with the production elements involved in dance performance.

*African Dance and Drum Ensemble Concert*- students are required to attend the African Dance and Drum Ensemble concert November 22 and 23. The Monday 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.

**Grading**

Effort and Participation and ADDE concert 80%

Formal showings 10%

Performance 10%

**Grading Criteria**

Students will be assessed in regards to the dedication they show toward the choreography and rehearsal process. This will be evaluated by the students attendance at rehearsals, their ability to get to rehearsal on time, their ability to use all rehearsal time productively, and their attitude toward the rehearsal and performance process. Dancers and choreographers will be given the opportunity to assess one another at the end of the semester, and this assessment will count toward their final effort and participation grade.

Students will also be assessed in two formal showings during the semester. At the time of the showing choreographers will be assessed regarding their choreography and dancers will be assessed in regards to their knowledge of the choreographic material and their dedication to the process.

**Calendar**

***Monday, September 23***- First day, meet the company and choreographers, go over syllabus,

***Wednesday, September 25***- Casting announced for individual pieces, review rehearsal schedule with students, begin rehearsals

***Monday, September 30- Monday, November 25-*** Rehearsals as scheduled

***Wednesday, November 27***- no class due to Thanksgiving

***Monday, December 2***- Run all pieces in order in the studio.

***Wednesday, December 4***- 3-5: run all pieces on stage

5-6: dinner break

6:00- Call time

7:30- Show

Additional performance opportunities may come up during the semester. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis and you will be given ample notice of any additional performances.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to be in the studio by 3:00 pm. Class will begin promptly at 3:05.

Students will receive ten points for each rehearsal they are in on time. The points will drop to eight if a student is ten minutes late, and then drop by one point per ten minutes after that.

On time= 10 points

10 minutes late= 8 points

20 minutes late= 7 points

30 minutes late= 6 points

etc.

Attendance is crucial to this course. We will learn a lot of choreography each class meeting and there is no way to make this up. Due to this, each student gets one absence. Once you go over this absence your commitment to the company will be in question. Students with multiple absences and/or tardies may be asked to leave the company.

Again, being in a performance company takes commitment. You cannot simply decide you do not feel like going to class on a particular day. If you are feeling a little under the weather or you have a minor injury you are expected to come to class. You do not have to dance in these instances, but you still need to be present to learn the choreography and take notes. This may seem harsh, but it is the reality of being in a performance company. You are a part of the whole and everyone needs to be present in order to create quality dance works. If you were in a true professional company you would be asked to leave if you repeatedly missed or were late to rehearsals.

Performances require a different attendance policy. Performing takes a very serious commitment. It is imperative that you are at every performance regardless of the venue. When you miss a performance it affects the entire group and your absence may mean that the group is unable to perform. This means that sometimes you are called upon to perform when you are sick, injured, or struggling with a variety of issues. Therefore, there is a zero tolerance policy for missing performances. Except in extremely extenuating circumstances (as described below), if you miss a performance your grade will automatically be lowered by two letters, you may be dropped from the ensemble, or you may fail the course.

Extenuating circumstances are:

* A death in the immediate family.
* An extremely serious injury or illness. Examples of extremely serious are: extreme blood loss, broken bones, loss of a limb, fever over 102, or loss of consciousness.

This may seem harsh, but commitment to a performance group requires a very high level of dedication. Again, your absence from a performance can easily cause the entire performance to be canceled. This leads to a lost performance opportunity for the entire group and reflects very poorly on the ensemble and HCC.

Finally, if you live with your family, you need to get them on board with the policies of the company. It is imperative that they also understand the importance of your attendence at rehearsals and performances. If they schedule activities that take you out of rehearsal they need to know that has serious repercussions on your grade and it would be best for them to schedule around your rehearsals and performances.

After performances you are not allowed to leave until your costume is hung up, any clean-up needs have been addressed, and the director has excused you. Warn your family and friends that you cannot leave immediately after a performance and if they want you to leave with them they will have to wait until you are excused.

Five extra credit points will be given for perfect attendance.

**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. Repeated cell phone use in class will be noted.

**EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System;**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

**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 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.

**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 which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
* Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student’s responsibility to**:**

* Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
* Complete the required assignments
* Ask for help when there is a question or problem
* Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments

Contract:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand that I am responsible for being at all rehearsals and performances. I know that I can only miss two rehearsals before my commitment to the company comes into question. I also understand that I must arrive at rehearsals, techs, and performances on time.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ realize that some days it will be difficult to come to rehearsal, and sometimes I just won’t feel like being there, but I will do it for the sake of the company and the opportunity to perform.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand the syllabus for DANC 2113 and commit to the process of creating and performing dances.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand that if I live with my family they need to know the seriousness of the commitment I have made to the Central Dance Ensemble. This means they understand that I may have to miss family outings and events if they conflict with rehearsals and performances.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand that if I have attendance, tardy, or attitude issues I can be removed from individual dances, have my grade significantly lowered, and/or be asked to leave the ensemble by either dropping if it is before the withdrawl date or taking an F in the course.

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student signature date