

DANC 1251
DANCE PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

UNITS OF STUDY

1. Introduction
2. Warming Up
3. Improvisation
4. Learning and Remembering Choreography
5. Viewing Dance as a Performer
 - Attending a Professional Dance Concert
 - Writing a Performance Observation
6. The Rehearsal Process
7. Preparing for a Public Performance
 - Costuming
 - Technical Considerations
 - Rehearsals in Performance Space
 - Performance for an Audience
8. Evaluation and Reflection

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with the responsibilities and processes encountered by dancers working in a professional dance company.
2. To work with a choreographer/instructor on the creation of a dance piece.
3. To explore various aspects of the dancer's role in the choreographic process (such as improvisation, compositional assignments and investigating/developing your individual role within the choreography).
4. To develop dance performance skills, such as partnering, unison movement, spatial and rhythmic awareness, ensemble patterning and performance qualities.
5. To observe professional dancers in performance as a means of understanding your role and preparing for your own performance with this class.
6. To perform a finished work of choreography for an invited audience.
7. To evaluate and discuss the process of participating in a public performance as a member of a dance company.
8. To develop the habit of journaling.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of professional dance company responsibilities and processes by learning choreography as assigned and performing at the highest possible standard in every rehearsal/class.
2. Students will demonstrate their personal artistry as a dancer and their dependability as a member of an ensemble through rehearsals and performances.
3. Students will relate their experience of observing a professional dance concert to their own process of preparing their role and performing with an ensemble, in a written assignment.
4. Students will demonstrate analysis of the class experience, particularly in how these relate to one's individual growth and development as a dancer, through a regular journal practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Participate in classroom activities, assignments, discussions and rehearsals.
- Bring a journal with pockets, paper and something to write with to every class. Students will be required to make regular entries regarding course material, personal observations, and thoughts on the rehearsal process as followed in class. Journals will serve as a means of communication between the student and instructor and will be turned in on a regular basis.
- Wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing. (Extra layers, such as sweatpants, leg warmers and sweatshirts are recommended for warmth, as needed.) Hair must be secured away from face. Do not wear jewelry or chew gum in class. Cell phones are not permitted in the studio.
- Rehearse/review choreography outside of class. Come to each class prepared to perform the choreography.
- Attend a professional dance performance.
- Write an observation of this performance emphasizing the relationship of your observations, and any insights you gain from them, to your own process and learning in this class. This paper should be a minimum of 450 words (2 typewritten pages, double-spaced) and must be handed in within one week after the performance with your ticket stub and program.
- Service Learning opportunities with local dance companies may be available throughout the semester. This opportunity could replace the performance observation paper, upon agreement with instructor.
- Perform final project for invited audience.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Dance Workshop is a participation course that requires students to be present for warm-ups, movement improvisations and assignments, rehearsals/classroom performances, discussions and observations of other students' performances. (Students must be willing to be audience members as well as performers.)

Students who accumulate three unexcused absences may be withdrawn by the instructor from the course. Three points will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Excused absences may be granted for the following reasons only:

- a) religious observance approved in advance
- b) medically-documented illness, at the instructor's discretion
- c) other circumstances on a case-by-case basis, at the instructor's discretion.

Be on time and plan to stay for the entire class session. Every effort will be made to begin and end class at the scheduled time. Two points will be deducted from your final grade for each late arrival or for leaving class early.

Students who wish to withdraw from the course must do so in writing at the Admissions and Records Office. Do not assume the instructor will withdraw you from the course.

Students may be permitted (under special circumstances and at the instructor's discretion) to make up excessive absences by completing additional assignments. Please remember that this class is by nature participation-oriented and therefore you need to be in class to actually learn and develop the information/skills.

EVALUATION/GRADING

The course grade will reflect the individual commitment and focus to the work each student applies and will be determined as follows:

Progress and Improved Skill	20 points
Responsibility/Preparedness (Being warmed-up, reviewing material outside of class, striving for excellence in assigned role.)	20 points
Cooperative Attitude, Enthusiasm, Respect for others	20 points
Participation in Performance for Audience	20 points
Performance Observation Paper	20 points
	100 points (total)

SCALE

A	90-100 points
B	80-89 points
C	70-79 points
D	60-69 points
F	below 60 points

IMPORTANT: Please inform instructor of any specific needs or physical limitations that may require special accommodations.

The use of physical touch is a routine and beneficial teaching practice in dance classes and rehearsals. Every student has the right to refuse the use of touch. Please inform the instructor immediately if you have specific concerns regarding the use of touch in this class.

Students participating in dance classes do so at their own risk. As with any physical activity, there is always the chance of personal injury occurring during the normal conduct of dance classes. Students are advised to take responsibility for their own physical and spatial awareness and safety. Neither ACC nor the instructor is liable for any injuries, either legally or financially, if they occur.

WRITING A PERFORMANCE OBSERVATION

This paper should be a minimum of 450 words (2 type-written pages, double-spaced) and must be handed in within one week after the performance with your ticket stub and program.

Begin your paper with an introduction that includes the name of the performance ensemble or company, the location, date, etc., and the title of the dance (or dances) you are going to discuss. (Note: dance titles should be underlined or italicized.)

You may choose to write primarily about one or two dances on the program. Please focus on the relationship of what you observe in the performance to your experience of dancing in this particular class. You might focus on certain aspects of technique (breathing; movement efficiency; alignment; use of the spine, feet, arms, head; "whole body connectedness;" etc.) or performance (focus, clarity, intention, characterization, musicality, ensemble, partnering, etc.). In discussing the dancers' performance or technique, please use specific examples and descriptions of the movement as much as possible.

You may wish to include references to costumes, music, lighting, scenery, etc. Try to express the ways in which these other elements work (or don't work) together with the dancers' performance. Remember, the primary focus of your paper should be on the dancing.

Again, please try to zero in on the things you observe which seem particularly relevant to your own process of training at this time. Explain the connection of your observations to your own dancing. This is an opportunity to help me understand how you are thinking about your dancing, and add that to what I'm able to observe in your class work.

Finally, please proofread your paper and correct grammatical, spelling, punctuation and typographical errors **BEFORE** you hand in the final copy. Think of the paper as a performance, in which you want your ideas to be received clearly and without distraction!