

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A. Department Information:

Division: Humanities and Social Science
Department: Speech & Performing Arts
Course ID: DANCE 105X2
Course Title: Beginning Jazz Dance
Units: 2
Laboratory: 6 Hours
Prerequisite: None

B. Catalog and Schedule Description:

A comprehensive survey of the beginning techniques of Jazz Dance with a focus on vocabulary, placement, centering, balance, alignment, strength and flexibility, and combinations of loco motor movement. May be taken a total of two times for credit.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: Two

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of the course for the first time, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the periods of jazz dance history
- B. Demonstrate ability to use jazz dance terminology effectively and correctly
- C. Demonstrate combinations taught in class with stylistic variety, rhythmic and spatial interest, and integrity of performance,
- D. Perform jazz dance technique appropriate to the intermediate level, including but not limited to battements, hitch kicks, multiple turns, floorwork, locomotor movement, and aerial work.

Upon completing of the course for the second time, the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate growth in flexibility, strength, and endurance.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of proper practice for injury prevention and care
- C. Perform a given combination of at least 2 phrases (16m or 64 counts) in length.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of musical composition, as it applies to dance, including but not limited to concepts of dynamics, phrasing, accents, syncopation, beat, rhythm, and counting

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

A. Warm-ups will include all or some of the following:

1. Whole body sequential movement
2. Isolations
3. Release techniques
4. Focusing on techniques
5. Strengthening exercises
6. Exercises for flexibility

B. Review of basic movements in jazz technique

1. pli 
2. relev 
3. tendu
4. degag 
5. battements, in all directions
6. jazz port de bras
7. lunges
8. jazz walks
9. chasse
10. pas de bourr e
11. turns
12. pirouettes

13. chainé

14. pivot

15. basic jumps

C. Performance of Basic techniques

1. Traveling battments with emphasis on control and level changes

a) building strength and flexibility to perform as sauté

b) building strength and flexibility to perform with a stag en l'air

2. Across the floor combinations

a) emphasizing rapid transfer of weight

b) emphasizing rhythmic interest and varied dynamics

3. Creative Problems

a) longer combinations that address performance qualities combinations representative of classic jazz choreography may include some or all of the following:

b) re-staging repertory by important choreograph

c) teaching original compositions in the style of significant choreographers of the jazz genre.

d) opportunities for students to explore improvisation

e) opportunities for students to explore creative work in the jazz genre with classmates and or as a soloist as appropriate.

f) challenge of strength and flexibility jumps, leaps, turns

D. Historical references and connections made throughout

1. discussion and analysis

2. video taped viewing

3. experiential process of repertory

4. outside reading assignments

E. Injury prevention and care, addressed as appropriate

1. continual attention to proper practice

2. teaching key exercises for the prevention of repetitive-use injuries

3. anatomical and physiological basics for the dancer

4. care of muscle soreness

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture and demonstration of techniques by instructor

B. Practice, drill, and performance by students

C. Verbal, tactile, and written feedback of instructor

D. Discussion and analysis of style and technique by instructor

E. Small group problem solving and practice in groups

F. Video presentations

G. Group discussion and critique

H. Improvisation

I. Choreographic

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Writing Assignments: After watching a jazz dance from a Broadway musical (Oklahoma or Carousel, for example), analyze the style and suggest its roots based on the rhythms and movements seen.

B. Performance: Practice and perform a 2' step (16 measure or 64 counts) combination as demonstrated in class

VII. EVALUATION(S):

A. Methods of evaluation:

1. Objective and subjective examination designed to test students' comprehension of course material. Sample test question: List and define at least five basic jazz movements.
2. Subjective evaluation of student writing and performances. Students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to their dance performance.

B. Frequency of evaluation:

1. At least one examination
2. At least one analysis papers
3. Bi-monthly evaluations of students' performance

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Kraines, Minda Goodman and Esther Pryor, Jump into Jazz, 4th edition. Mayfield, 2001

Video tapes selections for classroom use may include:

42nd Street
Top Hat
Oklahoma
Anchors Away
An American in Paris
Singing in the Rain
Guys and Dolls
West Side Story
Flower Drum Song
Cabaret
Sweet Charity
Grease
A Chorus Line
All that Jazz
Saturday Night Fever
Fame
Flash Dance
Thriller
Smooth Criminal
Rhythm Nation
Damn Yankees
That's Dancing

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: Students will be required to supply appropriate dance wear and shoe attire.