

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Description of Curriculum for 10 week Workshop

Dance: Instructors John Doe and John Dee

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the fundamentals of modern dance technique, improvisation, and composition. It is designed for students with little or no previous experience in modern dance who wish to develop an understanding of modern dance techniques, individual movement styles, and dance as a creative art form and aesthetic practice. The essential principles and evolution of twentieth century modern and post-modern dance will be studied through various movement techniques, creative problem solving, readings, and viewing of live and videotaped dance performances.

TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES

The course utilizes studio classes that incorporate structured exercises, combinations of movement, improvisation, composition and discussion to explore the functional, expressive and creative possibilities of moving. We will use lectures, class discussions, group demonstration, feedback models, video observations, movement experiences, written exercises, and reflective activities to synthesize material. This course is reliant upon an atmosphere of trust wherein personal risk and differences, including differences of opinion, may reside with mutual respect.

RESPONSE/EVALUATION

Journals, portfolios, individual research, and notes will be part of the review of student progress and discussion of their goals. The sophistication of assessment criteria grows in tandem with the artistic growth of the student, and students extend their assessment of work to include examination of the creative process. In becoming independent thinkers and consumers in the dance community, students evaluate the live and video performances of others and apply their evaluative skills to reflections on their own work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each student will:

- Demonstrate their understanding of dance through the practice of various movement techniques, improvisations, and compositions.
- Recognize their own unique movement potential.
- Demonstrate an ability to create their own dances.
- Be knowledgeable about major figures in twentieth century modern dance, their styles, and philosophical beliefs.
- Have an increased ability to communicate, in choreography, writing and speaking, about the meaning of dance.

WEEK ONE – Introduction to Modern Dance

Class- Review syllabus and do introductions. Warm-up exercises that begin introducing core movement concepts regarding modern dance. Short in class composition assignment based on the participant's name.

Write – Introduction Letter: write a 1 – 2 page letter describing the participants’ current interests and pursuits in regards to movement and dance. At the bottom of the letter the student will spontaneously define “modern dance” for themselves.

WEEK TWO – Introduction to Modern Dance

Class – Discuss reading and video viewing. Continue being introduced to core movement ideas regarding modern dance. Discuss and explore symmetry, asymmetry and planes.

Read – 1. Vissicaro, Pegge. Studying Dance Cultures Around The World. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt. 2004 pp. 59 - 63 “The Dynamic Individual”. 2. Huxley, Michael and Noel Wits Ed., The Twentieth Century Performance Reader, Routledge, 1966. pp 255 – 263 "Characteristics of the Modern Dance," by John Martin.

Watch – Watch the following video online. Take notes and be prepared to discuss it in class. Dancing: The Individual and Tradition. Dir. Muffie Meyer, Prod. U.K.: British Broadcasting Corporation, 1993. 59 min.

WEEK THREE – Composition

Class – First Composition Assignment: Shape Study - Design 3 symmetrical shapes and 3 asymmetrical shapes (high, middle, low planes) and link them together through movement. The participant can present them in any order, but they will need to be prepared to show the study more than once, so they will need to have taken the time to "set" the shapes and transitions. The total composition should be one minute or less. Share and discuss composition studies in class.

WEEK FOUR – Composition

Class – Second Composition Assignment: Affinity Study - With a partner(s), the participant will take their symmetrical/asymmetrical shape study and combine it with their partner(s) shape study to create a new movement study. Make choices about the following spatial and choreographic devices: a shared, direct focus, an extreme of spatial proximity, use of frontal, backwards, and diagonal facing, two clear floor spatial patterns, at least 15 seconds of unison movement. Create a title for your Affinity Study. Share and discuss composition studies in class.

WEEK SIX - XXX

WEEK SEVEN - XXX

WEEK EIGHT- XXX

WEEK NINE- XXX

WEEK TEN- XXX