

**Sam Houston State University  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
Dance Program - Spring 2008  
DNC 126.03 (2 Credit Hours) – Jazz I**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor of Record:** Heather Samuelson  
**Class Meeting Time:** MWF 9-9:50 a.m.  
**Class Meeting Location:** AB3, Room 102  
**Instructor Office:** AB3, Room 214  
**Instructor Phone:** 936-294-3342  
**Instructor Office Hours:** Call for appointment  
**Instructor E-mail:** [stdhnz11@shsu.edu](mailto:stdhnz11@shsu.edu)

**Course Description:**

Jazz I is a physical class in which students learn the basic fundamentals of jazz technique. This class is geared toward non-dance majors, presuming no former jazz training but requires slightly developed movement skills.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To learn the basic fundamentals of Jazz technique and history.
2. To learn the proper body alignment and body isolation and to improve the dancer's overall body awareness, while increasing strength, flexibility, coordination, and endurance.
3. To learn basic Jazz vocabulary.
4. To develop musicality, spatial and rhythmic awareness while dancing and to improve movement memory.
5. To gain an appreciation for the art of dance.

**Required Attire:**

Women: Please wear a form fitting shirt with a sports bra, dance pants or capri's, and black jazz shoes. (Jazz shoes may be "Pedini's" but they must be black)

Men: Please wear a t-shirt, black jazz pants, dance belt, and black jazz shoes not jazz sneakers.

Hair should always be pulled up and away from the face. This is best for the dancer's safety and it also helps in the mastery of dance technique. Please do not wear any dangling jewelry and there should be absolutely **NO GUM IN CLASS!**

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

1. Please be on time. It is considered disrespectful to walk into an dance class late. If the student is tardy, he/she should first ask the instructor for permission to join class. Any student who comes in after the warm-up will not be allowed to take class. If the warm-up is missed, the student may stay and observe the rest of class.
2. Please no cell phones in the dance studio while class is in session. Cell phones can be very distracting and annoying.

3. Please no food or drink in any of the dance studios. Please help keep the dance space clean and bug free! Bottled water is acceptable. Please pick up after yourself and throw away any trash you might bring into the dance space. **Absolutely NO GUM!**

4. Be respectful of others. This is a place of learning and once you step into the studio, you are all on the same level. Be positive with yourself and with others. This should be a safe place for you to grow as a dancer and to feel comfortable with yourself.

### **Participation:**

Dance is an art form that must be practiced for mastery. Students are expected to fully participate in each class. It is recommended that any student who is ill should attempt to attend class unless they are contagious or confined to a bed. Any student who opts to observe and not participate in class will receive partial credit for that class. Class observation gives students a good learning opportunity to listen to explanations and corrections the instructor has given out. Lack of participation for any sustained period of time due to illness or injury may result in the possibility of dropping out of the class entirely. **Daily participation means committing to the class and is worth a considerable amount of the student's final grade.**

### **Attendance:**

Each student is allowed to miss **4 individual classes for any reason**, i.e., sick, tired, skipping, sleeping, traveling. Each additional absence will drop your final grade by 1 full letter. A student who has **more than 8 absences will not pass the class**, resulting in a failing final grade and there will be no exceptions. An absence will be excused if the student notifies the instructor when late. (Please do this at the end of the class.) Points will also be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. For every 3 tardies, the student will obtain 1 absence. **Attendance will be strictly enforced.** It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of the number of absences acquired.

### **Grading Percentages:**

#### **Scale:**

Daily participation	25%
Dance Concert Critique Paper	15%
Dance Skills Test (mid term)	20%
Final	20%

#### **Grading:**

100-90=	A
89-80=	B
79-70=	C
69-60=	D
59 or lower=	F

### **Daily Participation Grading:**

For each class, you have the opportunity to earn a total of 10 points by being on time, wearing the proper dance attire, showing a positive attitude, and giving 100% effort. Students will lose points for being late or leaving early, not wearing the proper dance attire, slacking off, having a bad attitude, or being rude or disrespectful. As stated previously, a student who observes class will only earn partial points. No points can be earned if the student is absent.

### **Requirements For Dance Concert Critique Paper:**

Each student will be required to write **ONE** dance concert critique paper. The paper can

only be written over a dance concert, not a play or musical. Concert dates and times are posted throughout the dance building. The instructor will also make concert dates and times apparent in class. Each paper is to be **exactly 3 pages long and double spaced**. A cover page is not required, but if the student feels the need to attach one, he/she may. Each page should have the instructor's name, class number, date, and page number on it. The papers may consist of any discussion over the dancing, costuming, general idea, atmosphere of the dance, or all of the above. The dance concert critique paper should not discredit any choreographer or the department. Please mention the choreographer's name and the title of his/her piece. This is to ensure that the student relates commentary to the correct dance. The paper is to be turned in exactly one week after the concert has closed. A program or ticket stub is to be attached to the back of the critique paper at the point of admittance. Please write with proper use of the English language, grammar, and punctuation. Points will be deducted for poor writing.

### **Skills Test:**

The skills test will be an accumulation of the vocabulary, history, and technique used in the class. It is important to understand the terminology used in class and how to apply it. Skills tests are used to affirm that the student is comprehending the material being presented in class. Skills tests are given periodically throughout the semester and the instructor will video tape at her discretion.

### **Mid Term/Final Exam:**

Your Mid Term Exam will consist of two parts. The first part will be a comprehensive over the vocabulary learned in class. The second part will be a showing of the technique learned in class. The Final Examination will be a performance in the Non-Majors Workshop held at the end of the semester. The Non-Majors Workshop will be announced at a later date (TBA).

### **Make-up Policy**

Exams and Skills Tests will not be accepted late and they can not be made up unless accompanied by a doctor's note. Written assignments will be accepted late, however 1 letter grade will be deducted for each day the written assignment is late. If the student is in good standing, absences can be made up by other assignments at the instructor's discretion.

**The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time.**

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty:**

According to SHSU Student Guidelines, Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, section 5.3, all students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary

proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

#### Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

#### Visitors in the Classroom:

Advance approval is required by the instructor. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If a visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

#### Students with Disabilities – Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), 1990:

It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720. A student with a disability is encouraged to register early in the semester with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs.

#### Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:

SHSU Academic Policy Statement 861001, 9/24/04, provides procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Students must be excused for travel for observance of a religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments.