

# SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

## Department of Theatre and Dance Dance Program – Fall 2007

### DNC 476.01 Choreography III (Senior Studio) (3 credit hours)

#### COURSE SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Hilary Bryan, MFA, CMA, RSMT  
**Email:** [hilary@hilarybryan.com](mailto:hilary@hilarybryan.com)  
**Telephone:** 936-294-3525  
**Office:** ABIII, Room 235  
**Office hours:** Monday & Friday, 12:30-2:30 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 10-11 am  
**Class Time:** Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:20 pm  
**Class Location:** Academic Building III, Room 101

#### Learning objectives

- To create a work of choreography, dance, movement art
- To produce this work on the stage considering all production elements
  - Sound, Lighting, Costuming, Props, Set
  - Publicity, Fundraising, Box Office
  - House management
  - Stage management
- To develop artistic and production skills
- To nourish the inner artist in each one of us
- **To have FUN while creating the best show ever!!!**

#### Evaluation

50% – Choreographic Project  
    30% – 3 Showings (including active and productive participation in group discussions)  
    10% – Finished choreography  
    10% – Choreographic Journal  
20% – Production support (including active participation in collaborative teams as Costume Designer and Lighting Designer)  
20% – Written Assignments  
5% – Morning Pages  
5% – Artist Dates (hanging out with yourself; nourishing/listening to your inner artist)

#### Basic Assignments

- *Showings*

- Each choreographer shows their work in progress three times during the semester.
- Each showing will be a live performance by your dancers. If this is impossible, make arrangements with me. Your feedback session will be all the more rewarding for having your dancers perform live for our class. Please let them know how grateful we are for the gift of their contribution to your process and to our class!
- The entire class provides feedback for each fellow choreographer.
- *Finished Choreography*
  - To be presented in the Senior Studio Concert, December 11 & 12, with full costumes, lights, staging, and paying audience. Very exciting!
- *Choreographic Journal*
  - Record rehearsal plans, rehearsal notes, brainstorming, bright ideas, dreams, drawings, etc.
  - Record notes about *The Art of Making Dances* and how you use those ideas in rehearsal
  - Record notes about Artist Dates you have with yourself to tickle your creative soul
  - These will be turned in periodically
- *Production work*
  - Each student serves as Lighting Designer for another choreographer
  - Each student serves as Costume Designer for another choreographer
  - The entire class shares production responsibilities for the concert
  - Each student is expected to fulfill production duties throughout the semester
- *Written assignments – 5% each*
  - Preliminary description, grant writing preparation
  - Informal grant (2 page letter)
  - Press Release
  - Follow up
- *Morning Pages*
  - Three pages of free writing each morning (if that seems impossible, use a smaller book). This practice has helped hundreds of thousands of artists and is described in *The Artist's Way*. Please approach these pages with care.
  - These will be turned in periodically. I will not read what you write. I will only flip the edges of the pages to see that you have embraced the experiment.
- *Artist Dates – 1% per date*
  - Please follow detailed instructions and suggestions as detailed in *The Artist's Way*. Pick and choose according to what strikes your fancy. Also try a suggestion or two that you might never otherwise do.
  - Please record your dates in your choreographic journal, with notes on how your choice of date influenced your choreographic process, whether directly or indirectly.
  - Please flag your dates in your journal so I can see them easily.

## Required Texts

1. *The Art of Making Dances* by Doris Humphrey

We will not have scheduled readings from this text. Rather, you will be reading it at your own pace and using Humphrey's suggestions in your rehearsals. Please record your responses to her suggestions in your choreographic journals.

2. *The Artist's Way* by Diane Cameron
3. *Choreographic Journal* – your own
4. *Morning Pages Journal* – your own

## **Preparation – Soma and Psyche**

This is class in dance as art. Bring your inner artist, your open mind, your active curiosity, your generosity toward self and others, your willingness to learn by doing. Feeling stupid is part of it. Not knowing is part of it. Feeling like the only one who doesn't get it is part of it. The unknown is where all things are possible. Park your critic outside the door.

## **Touch**

Movement is a physical language and often includes communication through touch and weight. Students will be expected to engage physically with other students, from holding hands to participating in hands-on exercises. Also, the instructor, in the practice of professional movement training, will occasionally touch students to demonstrate specific positions or principles. Please speak to the instructor about any concerns you might have in this regard.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to withhold Academic Policy Statement 810213 of the SHSU Faculty Handbook:

*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 are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning:

*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**

According to the Faculty Handbook, the following is recommended concerning visitors to the classroom:

*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 the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.*

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request academic assistance when needed from a committee of Continuing Academic Assistance for Disabled Students by visiting the Director of the Counseling Center, located in the Lee Drain Annex. Phone 936 294 1720.*

## **Religious Holidays**

*Students who are absent from class for observance for a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. The student, not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that s/he would be absent for a religious holy day. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline for notification by students to the faculty of the student's intent to be absent on religious days and those days needed for travel.*