

**Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre & Dance
Dance Program – Spring 2008
DNC176.02 (3 Credit Hours) – Rhythmic Structure of Movement**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Megan Lasher
Class Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Class Meeting Location: AB3, Room 102
Instructor Office: AB3, Room 213
Instructor Phone: 936-294-4195
Instructor Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Instructor E-mail: mly001@shsu.edu

Textbook: *Rhythmic Training* by Robert Starer.

Course Description:

Rhythmic Structure of Movement is a music comprehension course that assists the choreography, actor, dancer, and/or performer in a variety of ways. Understanding the rhythmic elements of music and how they relate to dance will clarify communication with choreographers, dancers, and musicians that you will work with in the future, and will help with personal expressions of music in your own dancing. Although you do not need to be a dancer to benefit from this course, we will often be approaching the music and exercises with a corn to how they can relate to movement. The course will consist of class discussions, music listening sessions, movement exercises and assignments, reading assignments, written comprehension assignments and exams testing your understanding of the material covered. The course will also require the attendance to one live dance performance. You should keep a notebook for this course and bring it to class daily.

Course Objectives:

- 1) to acquire knowledge of the metrical elements of music and its function in relation to dance
- 2) To expand awareness of different genres of music, especially as they might be used in choreography
- 3) To create movement phrases, in group presentations, which demonstrate understanding of rhythmical structures
- 4) To develop a greater sensibility towards music, intellectually, emotionally, and physically

Classroom Attire and Protocol: Although we won't be "dancing" in this class, we will be moving frequently. Our class days are probably not those on which you should wear your slinky short skirt. Be prepared to remove your shoes. Students will refrain from behavior that is disruptive to the class. Please turn off or mute your cell phone and/or pager before class. Remove any dangly jewelry, hats or caps prior to class. Absolutely no gum chewing is allowed in this class.

Course Requirements: Attendance and participation will make up an important part of your final grade, but there will also be additional class assignments:

1. Reading handouts will be given out in class. You are expected to read the assignments and be prepared for discussion and/or pop quizzes of the material covered.
2. There will be several rhythmic study presentations that will be required during the course of the semester. These presentations will be performed by groups to which you will be assigned. It is suggested that each student be sure to get the contact information for the other members of your group in the event that you don't see them in class on a particular day.
3. In addition to any pop quizzes there will be two exams – one given at the mid-term and one final exam which will take place on the **last day of class**.
4. **Required course book:** *Rhythmic Training* by Robert Starer – This book can be purchased at the SHSU bookstore or online at any of the online book retail websites.

Attendance Policy: It is imperative that you attend all the class sessions. Your grade as well as your comprehension of the course material will inevitably suffer from gaps caused by absences. The university policy allows for 3 absences – each subsequent absence will result in a full letter grade drop of your final grade. If you do have an illness or injury and are unable to physically participate, you may observe the class and take notes in your notebook. There will be exceptions made for absences due to major emergencies. If you are aware in advance of an upcoming absence, be sure to e-mail me prior to the day you will be absent.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, you will be docked points and are responsible for telling me you are present. Please wait until the end of class to inform me so that I may mark you in my roll book.

Grading:

Your final grade will be broken down as follows:

Classroom Participation & Effort: (20%)

Quiz(zes): (10%)

Group presentations: (35%)

Dance Performance Review: (5%)

Midterm Exam: (10%)

Final Exam: (20%)

Total points: 500 points*

*Total points subject to change – if changes will occur, you will be notified via Blackboard

**It is suggested that you check your e-mail regularly for class updates, events, and other notices.

**Please be diligent in your attendance, study, and journaling for this course to avoid any last minute panic regarding your grade.

Sam Houston State University Policies

Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s).

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 handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected 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 their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center at SHSU.

A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center Office, as well as personally contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Please note that accommodation cannot be made until the student has contacted the Counseling Center to request assistance. A student may rest assured that confidentiality procedures are followed in handling a request for assistance.