

**Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre & Dance
Dance Program - Spring 2008
DNC 110.01 (1 Credit Hour)—Dance Workshop (Crew)**

Syllabus

Instructor of Record: Samantha Angus
Class Meeting Time: To Be Arranged
Class Meeting Location: To Be Arranged
Instructor Office: AB3, Room 213
Instructor Phone: 936-294-4195
Instructor Office Hours: Call for appointment
Instructor Email: sda002@shsu.edu

Dance Technical Coordinator: Andy Karavitis, alk012@shsu.edu, 294-4006
Costume Crew: Rebecca Cobo, stdrac12@shsu.edu, 294-1334
Box Office Crew: Jennifer Hart, jenhart2@hotmail.com, 294-3342

Class Meeting Time Notes: The class meets Tuesday, January 22nd in the AB3 Dance Theatre for introductions and syllabus distribution. Other meeting times will be determined by your crew manager. Check the crew bulletin board in AB3 for updates. Overall, you can expect to meet and work for about forty to fifty hours during the semester.

Crew: This unusual college course has no textbooks, no studying, and no tests. Instead, almost like an unpaid internship, you get on-the-job training in a hands-on work environment. Dance Workshop gives you a unique opportunity to develop technical skills that are the necessary foundation for public performance. The grade you earn displays your level of personal responsibility because unlike academic classes, the course requirements are variable. Also, the results of our collective effort will be seen by live audiences.

Course Description: DNC 110, Dance Workshop gives students an opportunity to develop skills for professional dance theater production. During the semester, students will produce dance concerts and workshops. This includes all aspects of running a live performance. Students will do everything, including ushering, videography, pulling the curtain, and moving our portable floor.

The course combines the efforts of three crews. Costume Crew is under the direction of Rebecca Cobo. They design and build costumes. Jennifer Hart will arrange Box Office and Ushering. Andy Karavitis, the Dance Technical Coordinator will work with the Production Crew. That is the crew that operates our theatre's systems during live performances. There will be some overlap between the Box Office Crew and the Production Crew so that everyone has a chance to earn sufficient hours. Other temporary crews may form as needed for specific projects. Crew assignments are at the discretion of the crew managers. Assignments will be posted on the crew bulletin board in the lobby of AB3 by Friday, January 25. Check this board often. These are subject to change, so please be flexible. Enjoy this chance to see how different personalities adapt to fit the necessary roles.

Course Objectives:

- ...learn the general craft of dance theatre
- ...understand and use common technical terminology
- ...develop technical aptitude
- ...develop the dance facility at SHSU
- ...produce dance concerts
- ...run actual live performances

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by both attendance and effort. The specific requirements will vary from crew to crew. If you are not able to meet the requirements for your specific crew, request extra work with another crew, or do some kind of special projects or *do something*. Remember, it is almost impossible for a student to be on stage dancing and also work the show. If your performance schedule looks like it might conflict with with DNC 110, discuss this with the instructors. Whatever crew you are on, you can expect to work about forty to fifty hours during the semester.

Attendance Policy: Each crew manager will determine the attendance policy, but there are some general guidelines. Your attendance is important and therefore is required. Unlike classroom-style learning, this class is hands-on and interactive. If you miss even one time, there is no textbook to get the information from, and no lecture notes you can get from classmates. Furthermore, excellent attendance helps improve the quality of our shows.

Attire: This also varies depending on what crew you are on. Run crews for a show need to wear head-to-toe black, including long pants and shoes. Ushers and box office people often wear semi-formal attire. If there are any questions about what is appropriate, ask your crew manager.

Classroom Demeanor: Respectful behavior is important for two reasons. Our respectful behavior allows all students the maximum possible chance to learn. The second reason is because DNC 110 meets at unusual hours and sometimes a lot of critical work has to happen in a short time. This gives us as students and as teachers a chance to show how calm and professional we can be when we are very busy. We can make this easier for each other by exercising patience and respect.

For most crew sessions, please turn off your telecommunication devices so you can pay attention. Our policy is that everyone refrains from eating, drinking, and smoking in the theatre. The permitted exception is water in a capped container. There are specific rules for each crew, so follow the directives of your crew manager. Repeated problems and grave offenses could incur a report to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.

Religious Holidays: Absences in observance of a religious holiday are excused as long as the instructor has been properly notified.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. Students requiring accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner.

Other Absences: Your grade will suffer if you have poor attendance. Other excuses for absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis.