

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Theatre and Dance
Dance Program – Spring 2008
DNC 273.01 (3 Credit Hours) -- WORD DANCE FORMS (POLYNESIA)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Cindy Gratz
Class Meeting Time: Tu & Th 11-12:20 p.m.
Class Meeting Location: AB3, Room 103
Instructor Office: AB3, #237
Instructor Phone: 936-294-1311
Instructor Hours: Monday 11-1; Tuesday 4-6; Wednesday 4-6;
Thursday 4-6; Friday 10-12 Or by appointment
Instructor E-mail: dnc_clc@shsu.edu

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

DNC 273 is an immersion into two specific cultural dance forms from two very different regions of the world. One half of the semester is spent learning the dances from cultures from Ireland. The other half of the semester is spent learning dances from Polynesia. Dances from Ireland and from Polynesia are then presented at the end of the semester on the Dance Majors' Workshop (May 9th at 7:00 PM). Students will discover similarities and differences in the two cultures through the language of movement. They will confirm what they have learned through:

1. Written documentation as demonstrated through writing exercises;
2. Mastery of verbal terminology as demonstrated on oral and written exams;
3. Mastery of the dance forms as demonstrated in performance testing; and
4. Presentation of a performance of the two cultural dance forms in the Dance Majors Workshop on Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 PM in the SHSU Dance Theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. DAILY GRADE (20% of GRADE)

- A. Daily Assignments
 1. Written
 2. On-line
 3. Oral
 4. Performance
- B. Participation
 1. On time
 2. Prepared
 3. Proper attire
- C. Attitude
 1. Courteous
 2. Professional
 3. Aware of others
- D. Effort
 1. Energetic
 2. Focused
 3. Tries hard – doesn't sit out

II. TWO EXAMS (80% OF GRADE)

A. Mid Term Exam (40%): Monday

1. Written Exam: SECTION ONE – Tuesday, February 6th
11-12:20 in the Modern Studio
SECTION TWO – Tuesday, March 22nd
11-12:20 in the Modern Studio
2. Performance: SECTION ONE – Thursday, February 8th
11-12:20 in the Modern Studio
SECTION TWO – Thursday, March 24th
11-12:20 in the Modern Studio

B. Final Exam (40%)

BOTH SECTIONS:

1. Written Exam: Thursday, May 10th
11-1:00
SHSU Modern Dance Studio
2. Performance: SHSU Dance Majors' Workshop
Wednesday, May 9th @ 7PM
SHSU Dance Theatre*

*Please make arrangements to participate in this performance.

*Having been notified four months in advance is enough time to prepare for this event.

Make-up Exam Policy

1. When documented properly, a student might be able to make up an exam at the discretion of the instructor.
2. A Make-Up Exam generally consists of a 6-10 page paper and a solo performance for the Mid Term. There is no make-up for the Final Exam Performance.

NOTE: THERE IS NO MAKE-UP EXAM POSSIBLE FOR THE FINAL EXAM PERFORMANCE.

GRADING

Scale

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60 = F

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

I. Fabric

A. 7 yards of cotton fabric

- i. Solid colors only
- ii. Wal-Mart has fabric for \$1/ yard.

- iii. Be sure that it is COTTON! (Or check with Dr. Gratz)
- II. Flowers
 - A. 20 bunches of flowers
 - i. Try to enhance the fabric you've selected
 - ii. The Dollar Store has these for \$1 a bunch
 - iii. SAVE YOUR LEAVES (keep the greens)
- III. Plastic beads
 - A. Black, green or a color that goes with your flowers
 - i. Again, these can be found at Wal-Mart or the Dollar Store
 - ii. You will need one large bag (\$2) or several smaller units to make your leis
- IV. Garment bag

It is very important that you carry your pa-u skirt in a garment bag. These can be purchased at Wal-Mart for a reasonable price.

ATTIRE

Please wear loose comfortable pants or leggings with a t-shirt that is Hawaiian, or that goes with the color of your pa-u. Always dance barefooted. Always wear your pa-u to class. When you put your pa-u on, or take your pa-u off, you must not let it touch the floor. When you are not wearing your pa-u, it must be on a hanger inside of your garment bag.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in classroom exercises is an important aspect of the course. Guest artist presentations, video presentations, and costume construction exercises take place during class time. There is often no way of repeating the presentations that take place during class time. Once missed, they can never be retrieved.

FOUR ABSENCES ALLOWED

Four absences are allowed. There are no excused or unexcused absences. You are either there or you are not there. After four absences your grade will drop one letter per extra absence. Five absences will generate a B grade, no matter what your average is on your course work or how excellent of a dancer you are.

IF you have an "A" average in the course work, the following attendance factors will be used to determine your final grade in the class:

A = 1-4 absences

B = 5 absences (You can NOT receive an "A" with 4 absences)

C = 6 absences (You can NOT receive an "A" or "B" with 5 absences)

D = 7 absences (You can NOT receive an "A", "B", or "C" with 6 absences)

NO ONE CAN PASS THIS COURSE IF 8 OR MORE ABSENCES HAVE BEEN ACCRUED.

MANDATORY PUNCTUALITY

This class only meets for one hour and twenty minutes. It is important that the class starts promptly at 11:00. Class ends at 12:20. If you arrive after roll has been taken, you will be counted tardy. Three tardies = one absence.

THE SAM HOUSTON WRITING CENTER

Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Wilson 114, is open from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Friday, and 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM on Sunday. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment. Please drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Stated university policy set forth in §5.3-5.32 of the Faculty Handbook sets forth in great detail and definitions of dishonest behavior; the faculty members' discretion in determining when dishonesty occurs and rendering penalties; procedures for discipline; and suggested wording for the individual professor's policy.

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students 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. Furthermore, 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.

PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/ RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

According to University policy, the student must initiate requests for accommodations. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day after the first day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day (Faculty Handbook, §1.02-2.01).