

**Sam Houston State University  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
Dance Program - Spring 2008  
DNC 376.01 (3 Credit Hours) – Choreography II**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Hillary Bryan  
**Class Meeting Time:** TuTh 9:30-10:50 a.m.  
**Class Meeting Location:** AB3, Room 101  
**Instructor Office:** AB III, room 235  
**Instructor Phone:** 294-3525  
**Instructor Office Hours:** By appointment and see schedule on door  
**Instructor E-mail:** Hilary@hilarybryan.com

**Required Text**

*Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking* by David Bayles and Ted Orland

Assigned Readings

**Course Description**

This course assists students toward understanding the elements of choreography and how these elements affect the choreographer, the dance, the dancer, and the audience. Movement experiences, observations, critical evaluation and other elements are used in the creative investigation of dance/art making. A good portion of the course involves studio work/studies designed for solos, duets, small groups, and large groups; significant time will be spent in rehearsals outside of class time; and written critiques for specific performances are required.

**Objectives**

- To assist in developing critical thinking
- To assist in the understanding of choreographic elements
- To relate choreography to self, to other art forms, and to life in general
- To assist in developing a sense of trust and commitment
- To assist in developing the ability to “see,” understand, analyze, articulate, and communicate
- To assist in creating works of art
- To demonstrate skill and responsibility in the implementation of original ideas
- To demonstrate skill and responsibility in regard to time and people management
- To demonstrate courage

**Course Requirements**

Daily movement and written assignments are a part of the course. Assignments provide an opportunity for the student to integrate choreographic experience with the personal/professional self. Students are encouraged to allow themselves a sense of enjoyment while completing the assignments. Assignments should be completed on time—late assignments will receive a lower grade.

Since a substantial amount of the course work will be experienced in class, more than two absences will definitely affect an understanding of the material and thus, the student’s grade.

Participation in critical evaluation is fundamental to the process of understanding. Students are expected to articulate verbally as well as through movement.

Cell phones are to be turned off while in class.

Students need keep a Composition Journal. Include items such as compositional notations, stimuli for ideas, evidence of research work, class discussion notes, and other information deemed journal worthy. This journal may be collected at various times throughout the semester.

Students will present their choreographic achievements with clear verbal critiques and analyses.

Students are required to attend Dance Program performances (see Attendance Policy).

### **Required Supplies**

Audiotapes, CD's, costumes, props (when appropriate), videotapes, a journal, a writing implement, and any other materials necessary to produce the student's work.

### **Assignments**

Assignments will be given and discussed in class.

### **Suggested Readings**

*The Art of Making Dances* by Doris Humphrey  
*A Primer for Choreographers* by Lois Ellfeldt  
*Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation* by Sandra Minton  
*Creating Through Dance* by Alma M. Hawkins  
*Dance Composition* by Jacqueline M. Smith-Autard  
*Dance Composition: A Practical Guide for Teachers* by Jacqueline M. Smith  
*Dancers Talking Dance: Critical Evaluation in the Choreography Class* by Larry Lavender  
*Choreographing Difference* by Ann Cooper Albright  
*The Intimate Act of Choreography* by Lynne Anne Blom, L. Tarin Chaplin  
*The Body Speaks* by Lorna Marshall

### **Grading**

A – Excellent work  
B – Good work  
C – Average work  
D – Poor work  
F – Failing work

### **Evaluation**

Attendance (classes & concerts)	20%	
Quality of class work & outside assignments	20%	
Dance I	20%	Date TBA
Dance II	20%	Date TBA
Dance III	20%	Date TBA

Evaluation is based on the quality of the completion of the course objectives as well as regular attendance and participation (oral, written, & movement) in class, promptness, proper attire, the completion of all assignments, and attendance at department performances.

## Attendance Policy

Since DNC 376 is a studio as well as a theory course (a sequence of movement classes planned in progression), *absences cannot be made up*. If illness or other serious problems force a student to be absent, the student should meet with the instructor as soon as possible.

Two absences are tolerated. Further absences will greatly affect the quality of the student's class participation and therefore, affect the student's grade.

After roll call, it is the *student's responsibility* to make his or her presence known.

If because of a short-term health problem a student is unable to participate in dancing but is ambulatory, the student is expected to attend class and learn through observation. Prolonged inability to participate may require that the student withdraw from the course.

Excessive absences, tardiness, or leaving early will adversely affect the student's grade.

Students will attend and write a two to three-page critique for the following concerts:

Graduate Concert	9, 10
Graduate Concert	February 16-18
Dances @ 8	March 28, 29,30
Dance Salad Concert	April 13-15
SHSU Dance Company Concert	April 27-29

(see department handout)

## Attire

Students need to be prepared to move without restrictions. Clothing appropriate for a professional arena is expected. This will be discussed in class.

## Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phases 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.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of

examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.