

DNC 110 - DANCE WORKSHOP
Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre & Dance
Fall Semester - 2007

Syllabus

Instructor of Record: Maggie Lasher myl001@shsu.edu 294-4195

Dance Technical Coordinator: Andy Karavitis alk012@shsu.edu 294-4006

Costume Crew: Rebecca Cobo stdrac12@shsu.edu 294-1334

Maintenance Crew: Heather Samuelson stdhnz11@shsu.edu 294-3342

Box Office: Cheryl Callon cheryl@shsu.edu 294-3342

Crew: A college course with no textbooks, no studying, and no tests... ..is it too good to be true? This class tests your personal responsibility because of one special difference between this class and an academic class. The outcome of your participation will be seen by a live audience.

Meeting times: To be arranged. The class meets Monday, August 20th in the AB3 Dance Theatre for introductions and syllabus distribution. We are having crew training workshops for all students in DNC 110 this week and next week. You must attend two of the four sessions. Sign up for these sessions begins Monday. Other meeting times will be determined by your crew manager. Check the crew bulletin board in AB3 for updates.

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, and maintaining our dance spaces, pulling the curtain, and striking after a shows.

The course combines the efforts of three crews. Costume Crew is under the direction of Rebecca Cobo. They design and build costumes. Heather Samuelson is the crew manager for Maintenance Crew. Cheryl Callon will arrange Box Office and Ushering. Andy Karavitis, the Dance Technical Coordinator will work with the Production Crew. That is the crew that gets to operate our theatre's systems during live performances. Other temporary crews may form as needed drawing students from the three main crews 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, August 30. 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

...maintain 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 is conflicting with crew, discuss this with the instructors.

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 chances that the general public will enjoy 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 it is crunch time. We can make this easier for each other by exercising patience and respect. For most crew sessions, please turn off your cell phone and MP3 player 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.