

**Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Dance
Dance Program – Spring 2008
DNC 126.04 (2 Credit Hours)- Jazz II**

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Olney Edmondson
Class Meeting Time: MWF 9-9:50 a.m.
Class Meeting Location: AB3, Room 103
Instructor Office: AB3, Room 215
Instructor Phone: 936-294-4752
Instructor Office Hours: Call for appointment
Instructor Email: omednc2@shsu.edu

Course Description:

Jazz is an art form that has been around for many years. Jazz dance is an umbrella term that can refer to several related dance styles. All of them are connected via common roots, namely tap, ballet, jazz music, and African-American rhythms and dance.(Wikipedia) In this class we will take the basic steps learned in Jazz I, add more difficulty and fuse them together in different combinations. We will also be infusing Jazz with different styles such as African, Latin and Hip Hop.

Course Objectives:

1. To take the basic principles and steps in Jazz and combine them in more challenging combinations.
2. To increase and strengthen the student's body alignment, strength, endurance and flexibility
3. To gain and develop the qualities of musical awareness and apply them to different body movement.

Required Attire:

Students should wear clothing that allows them to move freely meaning **NO JEANS and BAGGY SHIRTS OR PANTS**. These articles of clothing are inappropriate. If you show up to class with inappropriate attire, you will be considered unprepared and asked to observe class. Three instances of that nature will equal **ONE** Tardy. Ladies it is suggested you wear jazz pants, sports shorts or a light fabric sweatpants. Gentlemen jazz pants or sports shorts are fine. Just note that we will be sliding onto the floor so long pants are encouraged. Knee pads as well. **Required jazz shoes can be purchased from any dance supply store.** Discountdancesupply.com is a good place to check!

Participation:

Dance is an art form that must be practiced daily to master. Students are expected to fully participate in each class. It is recommended that any student who is ill attend class and observe unless confined to bed. Any student who opts to not participate will receive partial credit for that class. Lack of participation for any sustained period of time due to illness or injury must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

Attendance:

3 absences are allowed for any reason (4 individual class days). Each additional absence will drop your grade by 1 full letter grade. 3 **tardies = 1 (ONE) absence**. Any student

who is more than **10** minutes late will be counted tardy. Tardies will also be given to students who leave class prior to dismissal. It is the students' responsibility to notify the instructor when late. (Please do this at the end of class.) **Attendance will be strictly enforced.**

Example of attendance policy: Starting out with an A.....

4 absences = A

5 absences = B

6 absences = C

7 absences = D

8 absences = F

Grading Policy:

- Technical Demonstration #1 10 points
- Technical Demonstration #2 10 points
- Midterm 20 points
- Final 25 points
- Critiques/Reports 20 points
- Attendance, Attitude, Effort and Improvement 15 points

Grading Scale:

90-100 points = A

80-89 points = B

70-79 points = C

60-69 points = D

Below 60 = F

Make-ups:

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED CLASSES. If you missed it... IT'S GONE! If a student misses a Technical Demonstration (TD) and/or the Midterm and there was no prior notification given, **THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE IT UP.** If prior notification was given, the TD and/or Midterm must be made up within **1 week** of the original date given. It is the students' responsibility to set up a time with the instructor outside of class. Written assignments will be accepted late, however **10 points** will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

Schedule

(Subject to change)

(Wed) February 6, 2008

Technical Demonstration #1

(Wed) March 5, 2008

Midterm

(Fri) March 7, 2008

Report/Research Paper Due^ *see below*

(Wed) April 9, 2008

Technical Demonstration #2

(Fri) May 2, 2008

Paper Due on dance concert attended with proof of attendance** *see below*

**** Paper due on dance concert attended with proof of attendance.** Students will attend a dance concert and write at least a 2 page paper (**not including title page, which means you should turn in 3 pages of paper**) on their experience of the performance. This paper should include: Title page with your name and class time, the title of the performance, the date, the place, the type of performance (genre), and what the student brought away from the experience of the performance. The paper should discuss the idea and/or meaning behind the performance. Each idea or opinion the student presents in his/her paper should be backed up with specific examples from the dance itself. The student should use vivid language to create a visual picture in the reader's mind. The PRESENT verb tense should be used, unless the student is making a historical reference. The paper should be written in Times New Roman font, 12 point, and double spaced. Proof of attendance should be attached to the paper. This could be a ticket stub or program. (For examples of reviews of dance concerts, visit www.newyorktimes.com or www.villagevoice.com.) **Unstapled papers will NOT be accepted!**

^Paper due on research of Jazz Dance. Students will write a two page or more paper on the history of Jazz, not exceeding 5 pages. This paper should include: Title page with your name, date and class time. The paper should discuss the history of jazz, and the development of jazz and where it looks like jazz is going and your experience with jazz dance. The paper should be written in Times New Roman font, 12 point, and double spaced. **Unstapled papers will NOT be accepted!**

University Policies

Academic Honesty

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.

“Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit.

Proper Classroom Demeanor

In compliance with the University Code 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 page before class begins.** Students are prohibited from eating in class, chewing gum, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using inappropriate language, 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, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Student Absences on 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 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). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Disabled Student Policy

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 (which is located on the north side of the Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

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.

Visitors in the Classroom

Please make prior arrangements with instructor.

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time.