

Last Revised November 1, 2005

Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

Department of Performing Arts
Advanced Modern Technique (DANC3XX)

I. Introductory Information:

- A. **Department:** Performing Arts
B. **Department Catalog Number:** DANC3XX
C. **Course Title:** Advanced Modern Technique
D. **Credits in Semester Hours:** 3
E. **Contact Hours per Week:** 4
F. **Overlays:** None
G. **Restrictions upon Enrollment:**
Prerequisite of Beginning Modern Technique (DANC100), Intermediate Modern Technique(DANC200), or permission of instructor

II. Description of the Course:

A. Catalog Description:

Refinement of technical skill in modern dance at the advanced level, including complex movement capabilities, rhythmic structure, spatial relationships, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities that lead to performance. Designed to create a greater understanding and appreciation for dance as a performing art and humanity. Writing skills are developed in response to videos, class discussions, research, and live performances.

III. Exposition:

A. Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of dance as an art form by weaving together elements of technique, space, time, shape, weight, qualities, energies, performance, and individual creativity to offer a holistic approach to Modern Dance.
2. Experience working with others in dance on a creative, supportive, and collaborative level.
3. Demonstrate a healthy sense of awareness of one's body through modern dance elements.
4. Demonstrate advanced levels of concentration, consideration, control (mind & body), coordination, and creative thinking skills.
5. Demonstrate a sound understanding of efficient alignment.
6. Identify verbally and through performance, basic concepts of composition and anatomy and kinesiology.

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7. Demonstrate a synthesis of learning and an increasingly aesthetic sensitivity evidenced through examination, essay, journal, and performance formats.
8. Discuss and explain dance as an art form and an integral part of society.
9. Quickly grasp and retain complex sequence of exercises and combinations.
10. Quickly grasp and retain the nuances of rhythm/phrasing of exercises and combinations.
11. Quickly grasp and retain the qualitative dimensions of exercises/combinations.
12. Maintain whole-body and body part clarity of spatial orientation in movement.
13. Move quickly from learning to performing; apply technique with a sense of self.
14. Implement technical/artistic corrections consistently and in all applicable contexts.

B. Activities and Requirements:

1. Students will attend class and participate in all class activities dancing, discussions, and creative problem solving.
2. Students will demonstrate through complex movement combinations and exercises, an advanced understanding physically and intellectually of proper alignment and kinesiology.
3. Students will demonstrate an advanced performance energy with attention to qualitative distinctions and nuances in phrasing and rhythm.
4. Dance writing skills will be developed in response to research assignments, videos, class discussions, and /or live performances.

C. Major Units and Time Allotted: (15 weeks)

1. Due to the nature of a dance class, the following concepts will be covered in every class throughout the semester. It is through repetition that students will be able to physicalize an applied understanding of the concepts listed below.
 - a. Basic alignment
 - b. Pelvis neutral
 - c. Pelvic importance in all movement
 - d. Parallel vs. rotated position of the femur in the ilio-femoral joint
 - e. Five basic ballet positions of the feet
 - f. Head to tail connection
 - g. Head to tail connection coming to and from the floor
 - h. Swings in all planes
 - i. Undercurves in all directions
 - j. Directionality
 - k. Flat back
 - l. High arch
 - m. Articulation of the meta-tarsals, tarsals, and phalanges
 - n. Lateral flexion

- o. Sequencing of locomotor steps
 - p. Coordination of arms and legs
 - q. Physical demonstration of central initiation
 - r. Physical demonstration of verticality
 - s. Diversity in dynamic attack
 - t. Performance energy
 - u. Qualitative Energies
 - 1. Swing
 - 2. Percussive
 - 3. Sustained
 - 4. Suspend
 - 5. Vibratory
 - 6. Collapse
2. Perform advanced movement combinations with finite detail to rhythmic nuances, qualitative phrasing, and specific performance demands.

D. Materials and Bibliography

1. Suggested textbooks:

Foster, Susan Leigh. Corporealities: Dancing Knowledge, Culture, and Power. (New York: Routledge, 1996).

Lepecki, Andre. Of the Presence of the Body: Essays on Dance and Performance Theory. (Middleton, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2004).

2. Materials and Bibliographic Support:

Albright, Ann Cooper. Choreographing Difference: The Body and Identity in Contemporary Dance. (Middleton, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1997).

Banes, Sally. Dancing Women: Female Bodies on Stage. (New York: Routledge, 1998).

Brown, Jean M., ed. The Vision of Modern Dance. (Princeton: Princeton Book Company, 1979).

Laws, Kenneth. The Physics of Dance. (New York: Schirmer Books, 1984).

Mazo, Joseph H. Prime Movers: The Makers of Modern Dance in America. (Princeton: Princeton Book Company, 2003).

McDonagh, Don. The Rise and Fall of Modern Dance. (New York: Outerbridge and Dienstfrey, 1970).

Terry, Walter. Frontiers of Life. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1975).

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Terry, Walter. The Dance in America. (New York: Harper & Row, 1971).

Thomas, Helen. The Body, Dance, and Culture Theory. (New York: Palgrave Macmillian, 2003).

IV. Standards and Assessment

The final course grade will be a compilation of grades derived from:

1. Observation of classroom performance, technical assessments, competency, and improvement during the semester.
2. Willingness to risk personal inhibitions and experience a diverse movement vocabulary.
3. Student preparation for all assignments.
4. Active participation in all class activities.
5. Completion of all required assignments.
6. Examination scores, written papers, journals, and research assignments.

Grades will be in accordance with University Policy

V. Rationale and Impact:

- A. This course is for dancers with previous training in Modern Dance. This advanced course is designed to provide an intensive training for students in Modern Dance within a college environment. Movement is a common thread that sews all of humanity together. Through the study of dance, one can learn to observe, analyze, document, synthesize, and integrate both theoretical and applied knowledge for a better understanding of self and others as one develops as a total being.
- B. This advanced course is based on a sound anatomical and kinesiological base for movement and will present dance within a cultural and historical context.
- C. This course will serve as a foundation course for building a Dance Minor and eventually a Dance Major at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. It will enhance the curriculum of the university by providing another avenue of learning in the fine arts.

VI. Cost and Staff Analysis

- A. Staff and materials are available. Alternative locations for this class until a space is designed and built, include Price Performing Arts Center or Rogers Gymnasium.

Expenses may be incurred to take students to attend live performances.

Funding for an accompanist will be needed. Common fees would be \$15 an hour or \$20 a class for such services of a professional musician. This could also serve as a work study position for a music major on campus.

- B. This course is expected to be offered every Fall semester.

VII.

Approval of University President

Date