

**Music 9513A: MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR SINGERS
Fall 2015**

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Class times: Monday 11:00-12:30 in Alumni Hall, Room 17
Friday 11:00-12:30 in Alumni Hall, Room 17

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A conceptual approach to the development of movement skills used in dance. Application of theoretical knowledge will assist the student in understanding and appreciating dance as an art form. (Half course: Three hours lecture/laboratory)

Prerequisites: None

COURSE CONTENT

1. Body placement and control (alignment, posture, strength, balance, centering mechanisms).
2. Body movement, axial (flexion, extension, hyper-extension, rotation).
3. Body movement, locomotor (vertical and horizontal planes).
4. Exploration of movement range; focus; dynamics; and qualities or release of energy (swinging, sustained, suspended, vibratory, percussive, collapse).
5. Rhythmical approaches to dance (meter, accent, tempo).
6. Exploration of spatial design and shape.
7. Explanation of written materials concerning the technical and creative development of the dancer.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to introduce and examine concepts associated with basic elements of dance techniques through directed and creative movement experiences. The course will include the analysis and application of the kinesiological, rhythmic, and aesthetic aspects of human movement through dance.

Dance is a physical activity that exists in time and space. Students can best discover and begin to understand the elements affecting movement when isolated and explained within an environment of movement. They learn through the process of developing movement skills that allow their bodies to become creative, expressive instruments.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

1. To become familiar with terms associated with the organization of dance, its form and structure.
2. To understand dance vocabulary and concepts, and how they apply to skill acquisition.
3. To make connections between dance and related areas (visual art, music, sports, drama, literature, science).
4. To become familiar with terms used in music that can define more accurately rhythmic aspects of movement (meter, accent, phrasing, rhythm pattern, beat, tempo).
5. To encourage individualized artistic expression through the acquisition of technical and performance skills.
6. To help establish a realistic self-image based on the individual's physical body and its potential range for movement.
7. To encourage greater movement potential by developing a willingness to explore new movement.
8. To develop an awareness of dynamics in movement and the differences between them.
9. To familiarize the students with the elements of time, space, motion and shape and demonstrate how they are used in relation to dance.
10. To develop an understanding of the creative process and establish an environment for creative activity.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Because of the nature of the course material, students are required to attend all classes. The acceptable exceptions will be an illness that legitimately prevents attendance, or a personal crisis. These events must be proved with documentation. On days when a student does not feel up to physical participation, they should attend class and they will be given an observation assignment.

DRESS

Students should be prepared to work in bare feet, wear layers of soft cotton clothing such as leotards, footless tights, sweat pants, leg warmers, etc., and a towel and cotton socks to be used when required.

COURSE FORMAT

Theoretical components such as movement analysis, anatomical analysis, rhythmical analysis and performance aspects are taught in the context of the technical skills being learned or mastered by the students. On few occasions will the theory and technique be separated. It is impossible to be specific as to the day to day content or progress of each class. The backgrounds of the students, their ability to master the technical skills presented and the ability of the instructor to present the technical problems in a manner in which the students can understand and transfer into movement will always make every technique class slightly unique.

The **Study and Vocabulary Word List** will be used to create a personal text for this course.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Blom, Lynne-Anne and Tarin L. Chaplin. *The Moment of Movement*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988.

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. Princeton Book Company, 1987.

Minton, Sandra. *Dance, Mind, and Body*. Human Kinetics, 2003.

Pomer, Janice. *Dance Composition: An Interrelated Arts Approach*. Human Kinetics, 2009.

Schrader, Constance. *A Sense of Dance*. Human Kinetics, 2005.

VIEWING DANCE / EXPANDING MUSICAL & RHYTHMIC AWARENESS

It is recommended that students take advantage of attending live dance performances and watching T.V. or films that feature dance. These outside activities will provide an opportunity for discussion about different dance techniques and approaches. Students will also recognize similar dance movements to those taught in class.

Students are encouraged to broaden the genres of music they listen to in order to challenge their comfort and expand their awareness of musical resources that can be used with dance.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR ACADEMIC OFFENCES AND HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

“As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help students achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing a graduate degree. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone in whom they feel comfortable confiding, such as a faculty supervisor, a program advisor, or the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness may be found at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

EVALUATION

50%: In-Class Work

Students will be evaluated on learning, improvement, and performance of the movement material presented in class. This will include journal topics that are assigned in relation to specific skills, creative experiences, or performance development. The instructor will ask to see each student's journal two or three times during the course.

20%: Movement Pattern Showing Variation in Dance Styles

This assignment is designed to facilitate the development of an original movement pattern using distinct styles and movement qualities. Working in small groups, the final product will be presented.

30%: Solo Presentation / Final Solo Project

This assignment is a final dance technique composition that the student will compose and present to demonstrate improvement in skill level and ability to apply performance skills. Each student will be given specific challenges to be included in the creation of the composition.

COURSE TIMETABLE

Weeks of September 14th, 21st and 28th

- Begin evaluation of students' technical abilities.
- Class work will focus on assessing and introducing material designed to improve technical knowledge, skill level, improvisational awareness, and individual artistic expression.

October 23rd and 26th

- Discuss and set small groups and select movement material for Movement Patterns Showing Variation in Dance Styles assignment.

November 6th

- Confirm dates for performance of Movement Patterns Showing Variation in Dance Styles.

November 9th and 13th

- Discuss and assign Final Solo Dance project.

November 23rd and 27th

- Present Movement Patterns Showing Variation in Dance Styles.

December 4th and 7th

- Perform Final Solo Dance projects.