

Montgomery County Community College
 DAN 251
 Dance Composition
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an immersion into the creative act of choreography. Through short in-class assignments and extensive work outside of class, students will investigate both form and content in choreography. Students will create and perform original solo and group studies based on choreographic problems.

REQUISITE(S):

Previous Course Requirements

-- none

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Generate movement material from a variety of sources.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography
2. Demonstrate the effective use of body shape and design, and spatial pathways in dance composition.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography
3. Use a range of dynamic qualities in a dance composition.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Demonstrate the ability to develop thematic movement material.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography
5. Demonstrate understanding of choreographic structure.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography
6. Compose and perform an original solo, duet, trio, and small group dance based on a personal idea or theme.	Movement Activities Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography
7. Articulate issues in dance composition	Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Presentations of Student Performance and Choreography	Journal/Written Assignment

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Introduction to the Course
2. The Body: Exploring the Ways We Move
 - a. Impulse: origins of movement
 - b. Phrase: linking movements
 - c. Gesture: personal vocabulary of movement
 - d. Creating a solo

3. Space: Exploring the Expanse We Move In
 - a. Air and floor pathways
 - b. Diagonals
 - c. Symmetry: balancing shapes
 - d. Balance: supporting each other
 - e. Imitation: reflecting each other
 - f. Creating a duet
4. Time: Exploring Tempo
 - a. Slow motion
 - b. Speed
 - c. Pacing: combining different pulses
 - d. Accelerating: how fast can it go?
 - e. Creating a trio
5. Energy: Force Generating Movement
 - a. Inertia: readiness to move
 - b. Opposites: contrasting energies
 - c. Dynamics: qualities of movement
 - d. Intensity: increasing and decreasing force
 - e. Creating a small-group composition
6. Choreographic Devices: Creating Finished Compositions
 - a. Call and response: antiphonal movement
 - b. Canon
 - c. Directional mirroring
 - d. Variation: interweaving and varying patterns
 - e. Creating a movement suite
7. Create an original solo based on a personal idea or theme
 - a. Choosing a theme that can be conveyed through movement
 - b. Choosing music that supports the theme
 - c. Choosing movement and choreographic structures that support the theme
 - d. Creating interest through variety and innovative movement choices
 - e. Production elements—choosing a title and costuming that support the theme

Sofras, Pamela Anderson. (2006). *Dance Composition Basics: Capturing the Choreographer's Craft*. Charlotte, NC: Human Kinetics.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Dr. Melinda Copel Date: 2/16/2008
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr. Date: 5/18/2010

Revised by: Dr. Melinda Copel Date: 2/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 5/28/2013

Revised by: Dr. Melinda Copel Date: 10/8/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 10/24/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.