DANCE 68 ADVANCED DANCE TECHNIQUE & PERFORMANCE SKILLS
FALL 2012 SECTION # 76596
Monday/Wednesday 12:30-2:25pm

Instructor: David King
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Office: 4108
Office Hours: Mon/Weds 11:00am-12:05pm
Tuesday 12:30-2:30pm

This class will provide advanced dancers with a practical laboratory to experiment within the forms of contemporary, postmodern and modern dance techniques. The course is designed to further students’ understandings of the mechanics and aesthetics of contemporary techniques in longer and more challenging phrases and combinations. We will address issues of personal creativity within choreography and improvisation, and will work on phrasing, rhythm, musicality and the practice of dance as a performing art.

This class is about learning to maximize the movement and expressive potential of your unique dancing body. My reason for teaching and studying dance technique is to explore directions and ways of moving we may not have thought of or practiced before. Learning to dance and broadening one’s technique is not easy, but it is exciting and fulfilling. Be prepared for surprises. Students who pass this course can expect to “demonstrate with an increasing degree of proficiency, mastery and control of the body in space, while performing choreography and improvisations based on themes.” (SLO)

The class will work from the center outward, starting with a warm-up that emphasizes awareness of the body and alignment. The combinations, which follow, will offer experience with a variety of movements and dynamic qualities. You will be expected to learn and practice these combinations in order to develop ease, confidence, musicality and rhythmic accuracy. Our objectives are to: “demonstrate increased dance technique, increase performing skills and presence, demonstrate an understanding of the elements of dance, demonstrate principles of proper alignment, increase coordination, flexibility, strength, and endurance.”

I foreground dancing as an act of community involvement. To that end we will be exploring dancing in groups, pairs, and individually. Students who take this class can expect to improve their partnering skills and learn to sense the location of people around them more fully.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE:
Dance is a movement practice, it is important that you are fully here in order to learn. Learning comes through ongoing practical experience. In order to receive credit or a letter grade no more than four classes may be missed. If you are injured please come and observe the class. Tardiness courts injury. Students arriving late should warm up at the side of the room and wait for the instructor to invite them to join the dancing. Late arrivals may be asked to watch class from the side, and turn in notes, if the instructor feels it is dangerous for them to participate.

Being late consistently or leaving early, texting or answering your phone, and excessive talking during class are all distractions and take away from your fellow students’ ability, and your ability, to get the information being covered in the lecture. Any or all of these show a lack of participation in class and therefore will be reflected in your grade. This class builds in pace and intensity as it proceeds. In order to build and maintain the internal heat of the body, students are required to participate in the whole class, from warm-up to warm-down.

CREDIT/NO CREDIT
Participation & Attendance: Students who are absent for four or more classes may fail the course. You may receive credit for up to three (3) of these absences by taking another, pre-approved, technique class. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. See letter grade for assessment criteria.
**Essay:** Written response to the Cabrillo Dance Concert, typed, 600 – 800 words (2-3 pages), 12 pt font. This paper may take the form of an essay comparing and contrasting three or more dances in the concert, or may focus on describing your kinesthetic reaction to two or more of the works in the concert. **Due at the last regular class period.**

**LETTER GRADE**
If you would like to receive a letter grade for this class, email **Weekly Dance Journal** entries to me. If I do not receive journal entries from you by week two you will receive credit or no credit.

**Participation & Attendance (70%)** Students will be assessed based on their mastery of course content, their individual improvement, their commitment to the classroom learning community and the effort they put into class. Students who are absent for four or more classes may fail the course. You may receive credit for up to three (3) of these absences by taking another, pre-approved, contemporary technique class. Three late arrivals will equal one absence.

**Midterm (5%)** Students will be assessed on their practice of class warm up exercises. Rubrics will be distributed in class or posted the instructor’s website.

**Final (5%)** Students will be assessed in groups of five on the improvement of their practice of class warm up exercises and their performance of a combination from the second half of the semester. Rubrics will be distributed in class or posted the instructor’s website.

**Weekly Dance Journal (15%)** Self-reflection is one of the key factors separating great dancers from average dancers. To receive a letter grade you must keep a weekly dance journal. Each week email us a 85-130 word journal entry with the subject line: *Dance 68 week 1, week 2, etc...* These journal entries should describe your understanding of the course material, and your experience as a dancer. Journal entries may be framed as personal reflections, questions and observations about the material and techniques or ongoing narratives about your experiences in class. If you are excited about something you are doing, write about it. If you find a phrase confusing use your writing as a place to think out loud about it. Journal entries must be emailed no later than 11:00AM Monday each week.

**Essay (5%)** Written response to the Cabrillo Dance Concert, typed, 600 – 900 words (2-3 pages), 12 pt font. This essay may compare and contrast three or more dances in the concert, or may focus on describing your kinesthetic reaction to two or more of the works in the concert. **Due at the last regular class period.**

**HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ETIQUETTE**
- Clothing for class should comfortable to move in, not be distracting, or create tripping or slipping risks. If your feet split or bleed, wear dance specific shoes or tape and bandages to protect yourself and others – otherwise this is a barefoot dance class.
- A focused learning environment is the right of all students, cell phones should be turned off during class, side conversations should be avoided, food and drinks, other than water, are not allowed in the studio. Please take time on your way to class to make yourself aware of your current state of mind and body. Arriving on time for the warm-up will help you to deepen that awareness.
- Stay alert in class and pay attention to traffic patterns and moving bodies; collisions are painful.
- We build this class together, we need everybody’s energy to keep it going.

Dancing is joyful and exciting, and can also be a physically demanding and potentially injurious. If you have any injuries or medical conditions that could be worsened by exercise:
- consult with a medical service or physician
- inform your instructor of this condition, and provide him with a note from your physician with instructions regarding your condition.

Students needing **accommodations** should contact the instructor ASAP. As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations are provided to insure equal opportunity for students with verified disabilities. If you need assistance with an accommodation, please contact Disabled Student Services, Room 810, 479-6379, or Learning Skills Program, Room 1073, 479-6220.