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Graduate Dance/Movement

TH 559 Section 001

Spring 2015, Activity Performance or Studio

Stacy Alley

Office Hours and Contact Information

Instructor: Stacy Alley

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Phone: 870-897-6766 (cell), 205-348-6247 (office)

Office Hours (Rowand-Johnson, Rm. 111): By appointment only

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

You must be a graduate student with an emphasis in Acting or Directing in order to take this course.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

Catalog description not available.

A class exploring dance language and technique, emphasizing work in correct body alignment, improvisation, flexibility, strengthening exercises, and performance. Students will be taught various dance combinations in classical jazz and musical theatre dance in order to enhance technical skills and prepare them for professional work. In addition, the use of Laban Movement Analysis will be explored as a theoretical framework for analyzing movement in order to benefit the graduate-level student in honing his/her craft and preparing for his/her career.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able:

1. To define the language and identify the techniques of beginning/intermediate jazz dance as a physical, recreational, and artistic experience.
2. To improve rhythm and increase body tone and strength through proper body placement and alignment.
3. To identify and show creative expression through body movement.
4. To demonstrate generally improved physical awareness, endurance, balance, coordination and conditioning.
5. To let go of habitual movements, gestures, tensions, etc. in order to be more free and available to adopt and adapt to the movement that best aids their learning process and performance.
6. To have the dance technique necessary to succeed in "an actor who moves well" type of audition and/or to be able to better communicate with dancers as a director.

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED (**Required**)

There is no text book required for this course. Various handouts will be distributed throughout the semester.

Other Course Materials

N/A

Outline of Topics

Eight weeks: Jazz Unit focusing on technique and performance.

Four weeks: Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) Unit

Two weeks: How to prepare for and be successful in a musical theatre audition.

See detailed course schedule for more specific information/dates.

Exams and Assignments

1. **Class Participation:** You are graded on your own individual effort and improvement, more specifically on your preparedness, willingness to take risks, and by showing a consistent growth in the course objectives by applying yourself fully to each class.
2. **A technique exam (Midterm):** The technique exam is based on the exercises worked on each week of class and is graded on various components and criteria which will be explained to you prior to the exam.
3. **Self-Assessment Assignments:** You will be required to write a four-five page paper at the beginning of the semester in which you will assess yourself as a mover and then again at the end of the semester, noting how you've changed as a mover, areas in which you have or haven't improved, etc. More specific guidelines will be given to you before each paper is due.
4. **Final Exam/Performance:** Grading criteria is the same as technique exams with the added element of performance.

Grading Policy

GRADING SCALE:

100-95= A

94-90= A-

89-86= B+

85-82= B

81-79= B-

78-75= C+

74-71= C

70-68= C-

67-64= D+

63-60= D

59-57= D-

<57= F

500 pts. total:

Class Participation:	100 pts.
Self-assessment assignments -- 2 @ 50 points each:	100 pts.
Technique/performance midterm exam:	100 pts.
Final Performance:	200 pts.

PLEASE NOTE: In the “performance” grading process, you are not being compared to fellow classmates. You will be graded on an individual basis-- more specifically, on your preparedness, willingness to take risks, and improvement throughout the duration of the course.

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

It is extremely hard to make-up dance exams. If, for some reason, that you must miss an exam, performance, or presentation, it is up to you to make arrangements with the professor the class period that you return if not sooner. Only those with an excused absence with written documentation will be allowed to make-up any assignments.

Attendance Policy

This is a performance/participation course and attendance is mandatory! You are allowed to miss two classes after which your grade will be lowered one third of a letter grade for each subsequent absence. **This includes both excused and unexcused absences.** Three tardies equal one absence and will also lower your grade a third of a letter grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class.

Attire

Comfortable (yet not baggy or revealing) dance clothing, appropriate supportive underclothes, and jazz shoes are required for this class. Also, hair must be pulled back and no jewelry is allowed. If you forget to bring shoes to class or fail to dress appropriately, a five-point deduction will be taken from your participation grade.

Course Schedule

JANUARY

- 8 No class -- Stacy in NY
- 13 Intro, go over syllabus/Learn Warm-up
- 15 Technique/Across the Floor/Self-assessment assignment given
- 20 Technique/Across the Floor/LMA (use of space/patterns)
- 22 **Self-assessment assignment due**
- 27 Technique/Across the Floor (patterns, change of direction)
- 29 Technique/Across the Floor (turns, jumps, etc.)

FEBRUARY

- 3 Introduction to improvisation, technique continued
- 5 Technique/focus on fast footwork
- 10 Begin learning combo #1/discussion of choreographer/show
- 12 Combo #1 continued
- 17 Technique/combo/discussion of style
- 19 Midterm -- Jazz technique exam/Evaluations
- 24 Midterm -- Jazz technique exam/Evaluations
- 26 Audition Day

MARCH

- 3 LMA continued
- 5 SETC -- No class
- 10 LMA/Technique
- 12 LMA/Technique
- 17 SPRING BREAK
- 19 SPRING BREAK
- 24 Begin learning final combo
- 26 TBA
- 31 TBA

APRIL

- 2 Combo/Final Self-assessment assignment given
- 7 No class -- *42nd Street* in Mobile
- 9 No class -- *42nd Street* in Mobile
- 14 Combo/Technique
- 16 Final Exam review/**Final Self-assessment assignment due**

- 21 Final Exam
- 23 Last day of class -- Final Evaluations

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](http://www.nws.gov) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone.

Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.