

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS AND DANCE
DANC 3530 – Principles of Choreography – 01 CRN: 11088, 2 credits
TR, 2:30 – 3:50 PM, Multipurpose Center 116
Spring Semester 2012
<http://www.suu.edu/faculty/ocampo/courses.html>

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FACULTY INFORMATION:

Name: Paul C. Ocampo, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

Office Location, telephone number, email: South Hall 205, (435) 865-8373, ocampo@suu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday– 10:00-12:00, Thursday – 10:00-1:00 (Dept. Meeting/office hours), Friday – 11:00-12:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Dance composition with introduction to motif development and sources for choreography. The elements of shape, space, time, and qualities of movement and the study of their inherent relationship, are the basis for the compositional studies that are presented, explored, and evaluated in this course. Although the creative process of composing a dance varies with each person who attempts it, and therefore, there are no rules to achieve guaranteed success, students will be introduced to the principles of composition that can be used as tools for choreography. Sources for choreography will be presented as inspiration for motif development along with music, costuming and lighting concerns.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Dance Composition* by Jacqueline M. Smith-Autard (6th edition)

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Be able to describe and critique choreographic projects presented in class and on video.
2. Understand what constitutes dance as art of expression.
3. Through the process of exploration, strive to find a motif unique to the choreographic intent.
4. Identify and demonstrate the elements of construction (page 65-92 of textbook)
5. Understand the term style
6. Understand elements in selecting right music for choreography.

- Present a final choreographic project (at least 3 minutes of choreographed movement) based on an idea and its development. The final project must have a motif development unique to the choreographic intent, a title, and music selected.

The following thematic approaches will be accepted for the final project:

- A dance that portrays a dramatic story or poetic essay: tragedy, comedy or fantasy. For example, *Moor's Pavane* by Jose Limon or *Green Table* by Kurt Jooss.
- An abstract dance dealing with the inventive use of a specific style of quality movement. For example, Alwin Nikolais, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, Mark Morris, or Jiri Kylian.
- A choreographic representation of a personality type. For example, Martha Graham's *Every Soul's A Circus*.
- A presentation of comedy based upon a humorous situation or upon a humorous treatment of movement itself. For example, Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes To Shove* or Kay Andersen's *Flavor of the Day*

COURSE POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance and Tardiness:** This is a participatory class and attendance is required and will be recorded daily. Because this is a participatory class, there is a penalty for missed classes. On the third absence your grade will drop a full grade. Hence, with three excused or unexcused absences if your grade had been a B, it would be reduced to a C. Seven or more excused or unexcused absences will result in your failure of this course. (An example of excused absence is official university travel certified by official letter – all other will be handled on a case by case basis). If you are tardy two times, the third will be counted as an absence. If you sit out, you will not get full participation point.
- Attire:** Comfortable clothing that does not hinder movement is required.
- Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices, either for communication or entertainment will be turned off for the duration of the class period. No exceptions.
- Makeup opportunities** for class assignments and tests will only be considered for excused absences.
- Safety:** This course includes active participation in dance activities. Participation in any activity involves some risks. Even walking around campus imposes certain risks. Therefore, when dancing, please be aware of others in the space and listen to your body. If you are hurting, not feeling well, or have difficulties performing the tasks presented, please let the instructor know. If you have a known condition that will limit your full participation in class please let the instructor know before the first participation day.

ASSESSMENT:

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| 1. Music Assignment (3 examples @ 10 points each) | 30 |
| 2. Video Critics utilizing criteria from Section 4 (5 @ 10 points each) | 50 |
| Two must be completed before mid-semester | |
| 3. Written examination on methods of construction and discussion | 30 |
| 4. Poem Study | 20 |
| 5. Final Project/Journal (60/15) | 75 |
| 6. Written self-assessment of Final Project | 25 |
| 7. Written evaluation of a live dance performance. | 10 |
| (Details to be announced) | |
| 8. Active class participation (recorded daily) | 60 |

Total points 300

A	=	93 to 100%	C	=	73 to 76%
A-	=	90 to 92%	C-	=	70 to 72%
B+	=	87 to 89%	D+	=	67 to 69%
B	=	83 to 86%	D	=	63 to 66%
B-	=	80 to 82%	D-	=	60 to 62%
C+	=	77 to 79%	F	=	59 and below

Other Information:

If you are absent on a day that affects the group experience or a partner's experience, negative points will be given.

Departmental Attendance Policy: In all theatre and dance classes attendance is crucial. For purposes of grading, no distinction between excused and unexcused absences (excluding recognized religious holidays and approved university functions) as absenteeism affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of **(3** in classes meeting 3 times per week;

2 in classes meeting 2 times per week) will lower your grade a full point.

For example, in a class that meets two times per week:

*If you accrue **3 absences you cannot earn an "A"***

*If you accrue **4 absences you cannot earn a "B"***

*If you accrue **5 absences you cannot earn a "C"***

*If you accrue **6 absences you cannot earn a "D"***

*If you accrue **more than 6 absences you cannot pass the course.***

Lateness: If you arrive within 10 minutes of the beginning of class your lateness constitutes 1/3 of an absence in a class meeting 3 times per week and 1/2 of an absence in a class meeting 2 times per week. If you are more than 10 minutes late you will be considered absent.

The instructor considers leaving participation days before the end of the class period without prior notification a violation of academic integrity. Not only will students not receive points for that class period, but also an additional 4 points will be deleted from the participation category.

The instructor does not grade on a curve. Any number of students can achieve an A or a C. It is up to each student what grade they will achieve in this class. The grading scale presented (with the % of the total number of points) will be used to determine the final grade.

Information contained in this syllabus, other than grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.