

Introduction to Contemporary Dance

Contemporary Arts 120

Section: D100

Term: 2002 Spring

Instructor: Anthony Morgan

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Discussion Topics: This course will offer a broad introduction to the field of contemporary dance. Previous experience is not necessary. The only requirements are your body, mind and spirit eager to explore an art form in which the artist is also the raw material and the instrument.

Major areas covered will include:

Exploration of the body as an instrument of expression through training in several modern techniques, supported by regular conditioning work.

Improvisation as a tool for exploring dance qualities, as a tool for choreography and as a performance form.

Assignments in composition. Students will gain an understanding of the basic processes of choreography while creating short dance studies.

Discussion of the historical background and cultural context of the different styles and techniques. This will include attending dance performances and writing reaction papers.

Grading: Students are advised that grades for this studio course will be based 60% on the instructor's evaluation of in-class work taking into account participation and progress as well as achievement. 40% of the grade will be based on: short quizzes on readings from the text *Basic Concepts in Modern Dance*; an oral book report on a book chosen from a reading list; reaction papers based on viewing dance performances; and short dance compositions requiring work outside class.

Attendance is expected at all meetings and absences will unavoidably affect progress and therefore grades. If you know you will be absent, professional courtesy in the dance field requires you to let the instructor know, before class, by leaving a note or telephone message. If you can attend

class but are unable to participate physically, the instructor shall ask for a written submission based on the class work. Please plan to have an office visit with the instructor at least once in the semester.

Required Texts: *Basic Concepts in Modern Dance* by Gay Cheney, Princeton Book Co.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

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Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.