

## **Introduction to Dance Forms: Contemporary and Popular**

Contemporary Arts 120

Section: E100

Term: 2011 Fall

Instructor: Marion Landers (with accompanist/musical direction Albert Smith)

Discussion Topics: African Dance: the emanation of African cultures and histories. In this course, students will learn about the origins of African dance, its canonical evolution and the various styles and forms connected to and born of African movement.

Introduction to African Dance Forms offers a basic training in African dance technique. Focus will be on rhythm and timing; by way of an introduction and understanding of the concept of polyrhythm fundamental to African dance and music. This can be simply understood as the concept of multi-tasking; relevant to all dance forms and to life in general.

The use of the hips and bust in African dance will be a fundamental part of the class training. These two parts of the body are often featured in African dance; and their expression is fundamental to the aesthetic of African dancing and execution of movement. Equally essential to a full expression in African dance, technical training for the feet and head will be included. Each of these parts of the body can be used to accent, underscore, equilibrate and give tone and quality to African dance.

Students will learn and explore the technical aspects of using these body parts across various African dancing styles or forms: West African, Afro-Brazilian, Central African, Caribbean, South African, Afro-Contemporary and Hip-Hop.

Theoretically, the class will explore African dance as a dance genre with history, movement, time-line, cultural and historical significance and potential for new ideas with regards to choreography, style and theory.

From time to time the instructor may refer to articles (either handed out to take home and read) or a passage read aloud in class. The class may also view excerpts of film/video from time to time. These will be no less than 1, (per medium), and no more than 5 of each. These will be used to help inform the movement being taught, history of and time-line for - African dance and its related forms.

Grading: Participation: 60%,  
Technical Ability: 20%,  
Paper (1000 words on some thematic aspect in African Dance, commenting on one or more forms): 10%,  
Group Choreography: 10%

Required Texts:

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

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.