

## **Movement Language Elements for Dance in Education**

Education 330

Section: E100

Term: 2011 Fall

Instructor: Marc Berezowski

Office: 8627

educ330@yahoo.ca

Password: education

Wednesday 4:30-7:20 pm

EDB 7540 (mini-gym)

Discussion Topics: Every form of expression has its own style of language. Music has notation, writing has grammar and even dance has its own movement vocabulary. In this experiential class, students will develop an understanding of movement concepts involving space, time, force, and relationship. These concepts are the framework for making and teaching dance. This course will explore dance as a nonverbal and artistic language, and students will be introduced to the creative process involved when using and teaching dance in many styles and forms. The aim of all this is to find new inroads to our creative selves so that we will have more tools to use in establishing a great learning environment. Dance/movement structures will be forwarded, attempted, discarded and sometimes returned to for expansion. Opportunity will be given to utilize the art of improvisation as a way of discovering movement language and its importance for skills for teaching and life.

The key is the sense of journey and discovery.

Learning about dance means doing it; therefore, this course emphasizes physical activity by participating in movement explorations and structured improvisations designed for the individual, partners, small and larger groups. These can be followed with open and constructive dialogue through observations, questions, concerns, and articulation of the experience itself.

Augmented with reading, these discussions will encourage and support a deeper sense of how and why we dance and the value dance holds in relation to choreography, performance, and teaching. The combination of doing, discussing, reading and writing will foster a more sensitive awareness of the self, others, as well as oneself in relation to others. You will also be encouraged to notice habitual patterns and/or learning obstacles and to remain open to change in these areas. Time will be given to explore movement in a variety of social/ethnic/folk forms as well as observing and making movement for personal use/expression.

Students will explore a variety of ways of creating movement, planning and presenting dance lessons. Some lesson plan development will be explored for those wishing to have pedagogical theory. This course is designed for people with or without dance training, who want to teach dance in arts, P.E. classroom contexts, or integrate movement education within a wider professional community.

Grading: ASSIGNMENTS

Create and teach the group a dance or how to dance; 15 minute time block 20 points. The evaluation will consider if the lesson has a creative element incorporated. Group performance piece for the end of the semester; 12 minutes maximum 20 points.

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Critique or personal evaluation of an assigned article; five pages maximum 10 points  
Postcard assignments 10 points  
Attendance/Participation 20 points includes attending one performance

One absence will be allowed for full marks however, if you attend all the classes, you will get a 5 point bonus.  
Creative Movement File Folder 20 points.

It is required you keep a Creative Movement File Folder

This is an opportunity for you to keep a journal of your connections between movement, the body and knowledge. This works under the premise as Thomas Edison says that great ideas originate in the muscles and the body can be a site for knowing. The language of the body can be a place for discovery, exploration, and a place to foster an a living relationship to language. As we forge the connections in our own experience with movement in our daily life, we are able to bring those connections to the wider curriculum.

File entries can be ignited through interaction with class time, texts, movement in daily life, and reflection of movement memory. It is expected that you would make three entries a week. You are free to include other forms of writing within this as poetry, fragments, or even artwork.

### Required Texts:

Recommended Texts: Basic Skills in Creative Dance, Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation

Creative Dance for All Ages. Gilbert, Anne G. National Dance Association: APHERD.

### Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 units including six units in EDUC courses.

### Notes: RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

Warm clothing, which will allow you to move freely and comfortably. Moving in your bare feet is sometimes essential. Note: Shoes should be soft soled so as not to damage the surface of the gym floor. No jewelry please. Please notify me of any muscle/bone problems before class begins.

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[http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student\\_resources/index.html](http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html)

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