

Dixie State College  
Dance Department

## **Dance Appreciation**

Dance 1010, MWF: 10:00am-10:50am, 11:00am-11:50am  
Fall Semester, 2006

Associate Professor: Dr. Li Lei

Telephone number: (435) 652-7883  
Office hour: 3:00pm-4:00pm (T & R)  
(By appointment)

### **Course Description**

A beginning theoretical dance course for students with an emphasis in dance and for all students interested in gaining general knowledge of dance as an art form. It is designed to introduce the definition of dance, basic history of dance and different styles of dance to enable students to make certain critical analyses and to identify style, form, technique and individuals who have made significant contributions in dance field. It is also meant to increase participants' capacity to enjoy the art of dance and to appreciate the great variety of dance and diversity of culture in human society. It is taught through lecture, discussion, practice sessions and video observation. (There are no prerequisites.)

### **Course Objectives**

1. To appreciate and enjoy more fully the dance experiences that students encounter in their lives.
2. To be able to trace the evolution of humankind as expressed through artistic eras.
3. To gain insights into humankind's approach to creativity in dance.
4. To learn the basic history of dance and what dance can represent.
5. To learn basic characters of different styles of dance.
6. To discuss and define "what is dance".
7. To appreciate the complexity and joy of beauty of movement as expressed through dance.

### **Requirements**

1. Participation (college level discussion is required): Three excused absences will be permitted. Two times being tardy will be counted as one absence. The prior notification of school excused absences and medical emergency release forms will be accepted for make-ups.
2. Class assignments (college level reading and writing are required; all papers must be typewritten):
  - (1) Class readings:

Ambrosio, Nora. Learning about Dance, Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment. NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990. **(Text)**

Kraus, Richard and Chapman, Sarah. The History of Dance in Art and Education. NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990.

Cass, Joan. Dancing through History. NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993.
  - (2) Quizzes and presentation:
    - 2 quizzes on basic concepts of dance, major types of dance and brief history of dance.
    - 1 two-page critical essay of what you observed that relates to the work of this class after observing the videotapes of dance performances.
    - 2 group projects: 1) making a dance poster on one of the major types of dance or on one of the individuals who have made significant contributions in dance field; 2) teaching a few dance steps from one type of ethnic/world dance.
    - 1 presentation based on a two-page critical essay of what you observed that relates to the work of this class after attending the Fall Dance Concert at 7:30pm on Dec. 1 or 2 at Eccles Fine Arts Center (Main Stage Theatre).
  - (3) Final on all information learned from this course.

## Grading

The course grade will be determined by participation in class and completion of all assignments by due date. No incomplete will be accepted without signed permission of the Director of Dance.

Grading basis:	Class participation and work ethic			30%
	Dance video critique			5%
	Presentation and dance concert critique			15%
	Group projects			10%
	Quizzes			20%
	Final			20%
Grading scale:	A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
	A- 90-93	B 84-86	C 74-76	D 60-66
		B- 80-83	C- 70-73	

## Special Considerations

“If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability and would like accommodations or think you might have a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center Room 201. The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility based on your professional documentation and determine the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.”

## Dance 1010 Course Outline

Fall Semester, 2006

Dr. Li Lei

### Week 1: *Introduction to Dance*

Read Chapter 1: Dance as an Art Form (text book). Lecture and observing video clips from “The Power of Dance;” group discussion; summary. The first class (8/23/2006): hand out and explain the syllabus; introduction to the course.

### Week 2: *Basic Concepts of Dance and Beginning Years of Dance*

Read handout and Chapter 1: Dance as an Art Form (text book). Lecture and observing video clips from “The Power of Dance” and “Lord of the Dance;” group discussion; summary.

### Week 3: *Ballet Today*

Read Chapter 5: Ballet (text book). Lecture and observing video clips of the performances of the world known ballet companies (American Ballet Theatre, New York City ballet, Kirov Ballet, Bolshio Ballet, The Royal Ballet); group discussion; summary.

### Week 4: *The Beginning Years of Ballet. Dancing 1 (9/15, Friday)*

Read Chapter 5: Ballet (text book). Lecture and observing video clips from “Dancing – Dance at Court;” group discussion; summary.

### Week 5: *Modern Dance Today*

Read Chapter 6: Modern Dance. Lecture and observing video clips of the performances of the world known modern dance companies (Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Paul Taylor); group discussion; summary.

- Week 6: *The Beginning Years of Modern Dance. Dancing 2 (9/29, Friday)*  
Read Chapter 6: Modern Dance. Lecture and observing video clips from “Dancing –The Individual and Tradition” and “Denishawn, The Birth of Modern Dance;” group discussion; summary.
- Week 7: *Ballroom Dance. Quiz 1 (10/4, Wednesday). 1<sup>st</sup> critique due (10/6, Friday).*  
Read Chapter 10: Social Dance. Lecture and observing video clips from “Dancing – Sex & Social Dance,” “World Super Star Dance Festival” and “International Ballroom Dance Competition;” group discussion; summary.
- Week 8: *Jazz Dance, Musical Theatre and Tap Dance. Semester Break (10/12, 10/13)*  
Read Chapter 9: Jazz Dance, Musical Theatre and Tap Dance. Lecture and observing video clips from “The Barkleys of Broadway” and “Fosse;” group discussion; summary.
- Week 9: *Ethnic Dance. Dancing 3 (10/20, Friday)*  
Read Chapter 8: Dance in World Cultures. Lecture and observing video clips from “Chinese Dance” and “River Dance;” group discussion; summary.
- Week 10: *Dance in Higher Education. Group project 1 due (10/27, Friday)*  
Read Chapter 12: Dance in Education and Careers in Dance. Lecture and observing the video “The End of Semester Class Showing” (Dixie State College); group discussion; summary.
- Week 11: *Dance Research and Criticism. Physics of Dance (Dr. Lei). Dancing 4 (11/3, Friday)*  
Lecture and observing video clips from “Physics of Dance;” group discussion; summary.
- Week 12: *Careers in Dance Today. Quiz 2 (11/8, Wednesday)*  
Read Chapter 12: Dance in Education and Careers in Dance, and Chapter 2: The Choreographer. Lecture; group discussion; summary.
- Week 13: *Dance production. Attending DSC Dance Class Showing (11/16, 7:30pm, Concert Hall, Eccles Fine Arts Center)*  
Read Chapter 11: Dance Production: Behind the Scenes of a Dance Concert, and Chapter 2: The Choreographer. Lecture; group discussion; summary.
- Week 14: *Group project 2 due (11/20, Monday). Thanksgiving Break (11/22-24)*
- Week 15: *Final review. Attending DSC Fall Dance Concert (12/1 Friday or 12/2 Saturday, 7:30pm, Main Stage Theatre, Eccles Fine Arts Center)*
- Week 16: *2<sup>nd</sup> critique due (12/4). Presentation*
- Week 17: *Final exam.*