

COURSE OUTLINE **Beginning Jazz Dance**

Course Description

DN 133. Beginning Jazz Dance. 1 hour credit. Dancers in this course will achieve beginning technical and performance skills through participation in a bi-weekly dance class and culminating dance performance.

Course Relevance

The student will become more physically fit, increase his/her muscle memory, gain strength, stamina and flexibility while exploring the art of Jazz Dance.

Required Materials

Appropriate dance attire and dance shoes required.

Supplemental Materials

Text and other materials: The teacher will provide resource material including reference books, video tapes and handouts.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Demonstrate proper stretching exercises for the beginning level
2. Demonstrate the use of jazz isolations
3. Perform beginning jazz steps with ease and confidence
4. Be able to identify dance that qualifies as jazz dance
5. Increase physical fitness

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Aesthetic Response
 - By learning dance steps and exploring choreography, the student will have an aesthetic response that carries into the performing experience. The student will be able to communicate this through intelligent discussion and written critique.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

Teamwork
Health Management
Self Concepts
Critical Thinking
Non-verbal Communication

Listening
Reading
Time Management
Problem Solving

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Writing an exit aesthetic response self-assessment demonstrating what the student has learned
2. Assessing a video-taped performance

Course Content

- I. Themes - Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Exploring the art of Jazz dance
- II. Issues - Key issues that will be addressed in this course: areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Understanding that Jazz dance is an evolving dance form that incorporates many styles.
 - B. Technical limitations imposed by age and body structure.
- III. Concepts:
 - A. Isolations, contractions, locomotor and non locomotor movements
- IV. Skills/Competencies - Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes
 - A. Bi- weekly workouts
 - B. Willingness to try new things

Learning Units

- I. Stretching exercises for the beginning level
 - A. With correct alignment, students will perform exercises designed to increase flexibility and muscle awareness
 - B. Students will learn what area each stretch is designed to benefit and the reasons for improving flexibility in that area
- II. Strengthening and Endurance exercises at the beginning level
 - A. Students will perform exercises designed to increase muscle strength and endurance.
 - B. Students will work on repetitive exercises that are designed to condition various areas of the body
 - C. Students will learn to distinguish movements that benefit specific areas of the body
- III. Technique at the beginning level
 - A. Students will develop competency in basic dance steps such as grapevines, jazz squares, chasses, leaps and turns
 - B. Students will learn to use the head while turning to maintain balance
 - C. Students will build a working knowledge of dance vocabulary

- IV. Learning and memorizing combinations at the beginning level
 - A. Develop ease in learning and memorization of dance sequences
 - B. Put basic steps together to form movement sentences.
 - C. Work to music with a variety of tempos, to learn to respond to the music
- V. Performance preparations and participation
 - A. Learn choreography for public performance
- VI. Participate in pre-performance tech week rehearsals as scheduled
 - A. Learn stage directions and theater etiquette prior to performance
- VII. Participate in a post performance review

Learning Activities

Methods of dance and classroom instruction may include: demonstration, repetition, discussion, audio-visuals, guest performers and guest instructors. The instructor may use these methods individually or in combination.

Grade Determination

Methods of evaluation will include class participation, effort, performances, tests and special projects. Other methods may be used at the discretion of the instructor.