

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
TECHNIQUE & THEORY OF MODERN DANCE  
KSS 2230  
COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Jeanna McFarland  
OFFICE: McAfee Room 1409  
Phone: 581-7591  
E-mail: jkmcfarland@eiu.edu  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.  
Other Appointments by Arrangement  
Office Hours and schedule posted on door.  
Mail box in room 1110.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the study of modern dance technique and theory. It will introduce the student to dance as an art form and will include composition and improvisation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A To gain an understanding of modern dance as an art form.
- B. To experience basic modern dance movement and technique.
- C. To gain an understanding of movement principles.
- D. To experience the creative area within modern dance.
- E. To become acquainted with some of the leaders in the modern dance field.

COURSE CONTENT:

Warm-ups: The muscles are stretched through a series of movement patterns to prepare for following activities and minimize possible injury.

Technique: Basic movements and movement combinations are learned and performed.

GRADING PLAN/EVALUATION:

Attendance and class participation - 25%

Attendance goes down one letter grade with every absence. Two equals an A, 3 equals a B, 4 equals a C, 5 equals a D. More than 5 absences is an automatic failure. Passage of this portion is mandatory. Attendance without participation equals half an absence. Your final grade can be no higher than your number of absences. But your absences may not necessarily be your final grade. Save the two absences for emergencies.

Technique development - 25%

Included in this is a mid-term and final movement combination.

Assignments/projects - 25%

Included in this is one research paper, one written exam, plus there may be other assignments assigned.

Final project - 25%

You will make up your own dance and show it to the class during finals week.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Clothing: Women: Leotard and footless or stirrup tights. T-shirts must be tied at the waist.

Men: Leotard or fitted T-shirt and footless or stirrup tights with waist belt and dance belt support or sweatpants.

- Other:
1. No shoes or other footwear. Shoes come off at the door.
  2. NO JEANS. No gum, jewelry, hats, etc.
  3. No pants touching the floor
  4. Tie hair back or up.
  5. Please do not touch the mirrors.
  6. Sit on the floor only.
  7. No food or drinks. You may bring a non-glass water container.
  8. Do not be late. Be dressed and ready to move at 2 P.M. sharp. (Three tardies equals one absence.)
  9. Any assignment not turned in at the beginning of class the day it is due is automatically one letter grade down per 24 hours it is late. No assignment is accepted on line.
  10. No cell phones. Water break does not mean a phone break. Turn the phones off at the beginning of class and leave them off until class is over.
  11. Do not play the piano.

TEXT: The Dancer Prepares

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE: In case of emergency evacuation we will either go to the hall in case of a tornado or leave the building and meet at the pavilion by campus pond.

Research papers are to be a 2 page typed summary of a magazine article. It must be about a person we covered in class or another MODERN dancer. (No musical theater or ballet or tap, etc. or you have flunked the paper. No Gregory Hines.) It must be from a published periodical such as Dance Magazine or Time, etc. NO INTERNET. No article from an internet publication. A copy of the article must be turned in with the paper. This is to avoid plagiarism. If I find you have used the internet, you have flunked the paper. If you question your article, check it with me first. You may go through Booth Library's electronic databases, such as Info Trac or EBSCO, to find your article. NO INTERNET.