

Dance 9A #5399  
TTH 6:00-7:30 pm  
W201  
Instructor: Rebecca Pappas

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Office Hours: 6:00 pm-7:45 pm

## **INTRODUCTION**

Dance 9A- Beginning Modern Dance will be a fun and joyful introduction to basic steps, terminology and principles of modern dance including:

Alignment  
Core Support  
Opposition  
Connectivity  
Groundedness  
Transfer of Weight  
Use of Breath

We will be applying these principles in standing and on the ground, in longer phrases and moving across the floor. Each course session will build upon the last and in-class participation is crucial to success. This class is designed for those who have limited or no modern dance experience. If you have a great deal of modern dance experience this is probably not an appropriate class for you.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the semester you will:

1. Perform a variety of basic modern steps in the center and moving across the floor both in isolation and in combination with one another.
2. Apply our six movement principles in the execution of basic modern steps.
3. Learn and apply the names of basic modern steps and positions.
4. Improvise within basic scores varying space, time and energy.
5. Begin to develop proficiency in musicality, dynamics (energy), ensemble work, and joy in dancing.
6. Know how to take dance class, including proper class etiquette, how to learn, remember and perform material, how to receive and apply instructor's corrections, and how to "self-correct" your dancing.

## **GRADING**

There will be a series of activities and assignments which constitute your grade including:

50%

**Class participation and attendance** – Each class session you will get a mark ( $\sqrt{+}(100)$ ,  $\sqrt{(88)}$ ,  $\sqrt{-(70)}$ ,  $--(50)$ ) based on your focus, dedication, and achievement in that day's class. Because studio work is the heart of dance practice this will be the bulk of your grade. Each student gets one free absence. More than one absence will adversely affect your grade (you will receive a 0 for these classes). **For safety and etiquette reasons students more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to participate in class. These tardies will count as --.** Students with injuries must make arrangements to make up classes they cannot participate in.

$\sqrt{+}$  (100) - You are on time, focused and ready for class as soon as we begin. You are in appropriate attire and your hair is back before class begins. You are attentive throughout class and try to apply corrections when they are given. You remember exercises when they are given and ask relevant questions. You work hard and make steady progress in your learning. You exhibit excellent etiquette including not talking in class. You are a class leader.

$\sqrt{(88)}$ - You are on time, focused and ready for class as soon as we begin. You may not be completely in appropriate attire and you may adjust hair and clothes during class. You are attentive but you sometimes lose focus and do not always pay attention. You sometimes do not remember combinations. You often work hard and make some progress in your learning. You usually exhibit excellent etiquette but sometimes talk. You are a good participant in class.

$\sqrt{-(70)}$  - You may be late for class. You may not be in appropriate attire or ready to dance. You may not be paying attention or may not be trying hard. You do not remember exercise sequences and do not make an effort to get better. You may be distracting to other students in class. You do not seem to put effort into class. You exhibit poor classroom etiquette, which, may include talking to others or speaking out of turn.

$--(50)$  – If you sit out for a class (unless there are extreme circumstances), are more than 10 minutes late, have to leave early, or are egregiously disruptive or off-task you will receive a — for the day.

30%

**2 Juried classes (15% each)** – We will have two juried classes, JURY 1 on **Tues, Feb 12** and **Thur, Feb 14** (you will attend one) and JURY 2 on **Tues, April 16** and **Thur, April 18** (you will attend one). We will learn exercises and a longer combination for these classes ahead of time and repeat them at least three times prior to the jury. At the jury you will perform each exercise in a small groups from memory. You will be graded on your memorization, your musicality, your application of movement

principles and your overall performance of each exercise based on movement goals that we have predetermined and discussed in class. **There will be no make ups for juries except in extreme cases with prior arrangements. All jury make ups must be done within a week of the original jury. Missing a jury with no make up will adversely affect your grade.**

- 10%      **Short answer quiz**– There will be one multiple choice/short answer quiz on **Tues, March 26** based on modern dance vocabulary, principles, and steps we have learned in class. It will draw on the handouts we will be using throughout the semester. It will also ask you to recall steps and principles from the quarter and to briefly discuss your own dance learning and progress.
- 10%      **Report on a live performance** – You will be required to attend and write a 2-3 page report on a live modern dance performance during the semester (please see list at end of syllabus for possible performance choices). Further instructions for the paper will be available on the class website. This paper must be turned into instructor by **Tues, April 9**. Papers will receive 5 pts off for each class session they are late. Papers will not be accepted after **Tues, April 23**.

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance**

Because this is a class where learning occurs primarily in the classroom on-time attendance is mandatory. Please see “Grading” for more detailed information.

### **Attire**

Please wear form-fitting clothes that allow your instructor to see your body and offer you proper corrections. Please bring a long sleeved shirt that can be put on over your form-fitting clothes for floor work. Have hair secured back from the face (including bangs) and do not wear jewelry. Bare feet are required for dancing. No chewing of gum or candy is allowed.

<b>PLEASE DO NOT USE OR CHECK CELL PHONES IN CLASS! EVER!</b>
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### **Class Behavior**

While modern dance is an art form with a history of rebellion, it is also focused on disciplining and training the body. With this in mind, proper classroom etiquette is important. There should be no talking during center exercises or while waiting to go across the floor unless called on by the teacher. Questions should be asked between exercises and restroom use should come before class. Students may keep a water bottle in class for sipping between exercises.

## **Corrections**

Because dance is a physical art form, tactile cueing (touching) may sometimes be required in class to properly correct dancers. If you are uncomfortable with this please tell the instructor.

## **Injuries**

Please work smartly and safely in class and keep the instructor informed of any injuries or chronic pain you may be dealing with. Listen to your body and let instructor know when things hurt so you can modify accordingly. If there is an emergency please contact campus safety at [626 585-7484](tel:626-585-7484). If it is a non-emergency proceed to student health services for treatment.

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## **SOURCE MATERIAL**

This course owes a debt to many incredible teachers including, Dan Wagoner, Augusta Moore, Sonia Delwaide, and Jeremy Nelson. It draws from a mixture of modern techniques and somatic practices including Release, Taylor, Cunningham, Ballet, Feldenkrais, and Bartenieff Fundamentals.

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## **LIST OF LIVE PERFORMANCES (Other performances must be approved)**

January 12-13, Nugent Dance, ARC Pasadena

January 31-February 3, Marc Bamuthi Joseph/The Living Word Project, REDCAT

February 14-16, Hiroaki Umeda: Haptic and Holistic Strata, REDCAT

February 16-17, Los Angeles Movement Arts, Diavalo Performance Space

March 1, MFA II New Works, Gloria Kaufman Hall, UCLA

March 9, Celebrate Dance, Alex Theater, Glendale

March 15-16, Ultima Vez, Royce Hall, UCLA

April 4-7, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Royce Hall \*and other locations, UCLA