

Bergen Community College  
School of Arts, Humanities & Wellness  
Performing Arts Department

Course Syllabus

**DANCE APPRECIATION THR/DAN 124**

Semester and year:  
Course Number:  
Meeting Times and Locations:

Instructor:  
Office Location:  
Phone: 201-447-7143  
Departmental Secretary: Mrs. Barbara Bliss  
Office Hours:  
Email Address:

**Course Description** – Dance Appreciation is designed to inform the student about dance as a performing art form. Focus is on developing a critical framework for viewing various styles of dance performance. By attending performances, tracing the development of the particular form, studying the demands the art form makes upon its performers, and discussing critics' views and evaluating the experience, students are exposed to a broad representation of dance experiences.

3 lectures, 3 credits

No prerequisites and/or co-requisites:

**Student Learning Objectives:** As a result of meeting the requirements of this course, students will be able to

1. Develop a historical and sociological perspective of dance through listening, viewing and reading selected musical theater repertoire.
2. Identify and discuss significant works of dance. Critique and analyze selected dramatic works verbally and through written assignments.
3. Analyze selected choreographers and dance masterpieces, by considering the structural elements as related to performance techniques.
4. Analyze the implications of the multiple artistic elements of dance in relationship to history, society, and the artistic values of the genre.
6. Review a live dance production, appraise the artistic merits, compare it to others of the same show, support and defend their opinions with historical precedence and accepted performance practice.

In support of the above-mentioned goals, the course will include reading, writing, listening, viewing and discussion assignments from the textbook and from outside sources (e.g., DVDs, videos, scores and audio recordings). Students are strongly encouraged to take an active part in class discussions and writing assignments.

Objectives will be assessed as follows:

1. The historical and sociological perspective of dance will be determined through students' participation in class discussions and on the midterm and final exams.
2. Awareness of important individuals and their contributions will be determined through Midterm and Final exams, and the completion of a final presentation, whose components are a written outline and an oral presentation.
3. Ability to consider the musical and performance related elements in of dance will be assessed by class discussions, written responses, and on midterm and the final examination.
4. Ability to analyze the multiple artistic considerations in musical theatre will be assessed through response essays and class discussions.
5. Ability to review a dance performance will be assessed through the final project of a written performance critique.

## Course Content

**Dance Appreciation** – introduces the fundamental aspects of dance. Students will study the beginnings of dance from tribal, ritual, and religious to classical and modern dance. Works from artists representing dance through the ages will be surveyed. Selected works will be considered from the context of their relationship to historical and artistic values. Students will consider aspects of dance performance theater and gain an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations involved in the field.

## Technological Literacy

Technological literacy and/or information literacy is one expectation of this course. Students will be encouraged to use such technology as the internet and contribute points of information using PowerPoint during scheduled class discussions.

## Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials

**Required:** Lihs, Harriet R. *Appreciating Dance*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Princeton Co. 2002 ISBN: 08520-0831

**Recommended:** Jonas, Gerald, *Dancing, The Pleasure, Power & Art of Movement*. Harry N. Abrams, Inc. NY

Ambrosia, Nora. *Learning About Dance* Kendall Hung Publishing 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 201. ISBN-10: 0757550126

## Attendance Policy

### BCC Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Students will be evaluated on attendance and participation in class using the following criteria: consistent attendance; evidence of studying text and assignments; completed daily assignments; quality classroom responses.

Each class can potentially count as .837 points towards the possible 10% score for attendance and participation. A letter grade totaling 10% of the final grade will be determined by the instructor based upon the aforementioned criteria.

## Grading Policy

The final grade in this course will be determined by a student's overall mastery of the subject matter as evidenced on exams, quizzes, oral presentations, homework assignments, consistent attendance and quality class participation. There will be one mid-term exam, one final exam, 2 final projects, and weekly assignments.

Quizzes/Tests	30%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Research Paper on dance person/genre	20%
Critique of live dance performance	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%

### Criteria for Evaluation:

- consistent attendance
- passing test scores
- evidence of studying text and assignments
- completed assignments
- quality classroom responses
- overall demonstration of comprehension of the course material

**90-100 = A    86-89 = B+    80-85 = B    76-79 = C+    70 - 75 = C    65-69 = D**  
**E =Unofficial Withdrawal    W =Official Withdrawal    INC=Incomplete    0-64 = F**

Any work turned in a week late shall receive a deduction of one letter grade. Two letter grades shall be deducted after the second week from the due date, and three letter grades after the third. There are no make-up examinations unless approved in advance by the instructor.

## Bergen Community College Academic Policies:

Bergen Community College is committed to academic integrity – the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. Please review the college catalogue or student handbook for further information on this topic.

Bergen Community College has adopted an internal grievance procedure to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by federal regulation implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (ADA). Please review the college catalogue for further information on this topic.

Bergen Community College is committed to providing its students and employees with an academic and work environment free from sexual harassment or discrimination. Please review the policy prohibiting sexual harassment in the college catalog.

Please review the statement on acceptable use of BCC technology in the college catalog.

Faculty hold 3 office hours per week, and as requested by students, by appointment. Students are encouraged to seek out their faculty member for academic needs.

## Student and Faculty Support Services

All students are encouraged to visit and use the BCC Library. There are particularly excellent electronic references in the area of music available to our students.

Students are encouraged to use the student support services of the college. These services include: the Writing Center, the music-computer Lab, the Tutorial Center, and the Office of Specialized Services.

The Distance Learning Office – for any problems you may have accessing your online courses	Room C-334	201-612-5581 <a href="mailto:psimms@bergen.edu">psimms@bergen.edu</a>
Smarthinking Tutorial Service	On Line at:	<a href="http://www.bergen.edu/library/learning/tutor/smart/index.asp">www.bergen.edu/library/learning/tutor/smart/index.asp</a>
The Tutoring Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908
The Writing Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908
The Online Writing Lab (OWL)	On Line at:	<a href="http://www.bergen.edu/owl">www.bergen.edu/owl</a>
The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities)	Room S-131	201-612-5270
The Sidney Silverman Library – Reference Desk	Room L-226	201-447-7436

## Course Outline:

*Note to Students: This Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class*

### Dance Appreciation Course Outline:

Week	Topic/Activity	Learning Objectives	Assignments/Events
1	Course Introduction ■ Types of Religious Dances ■ Types of Tribal Ritual Dances	1,2,3,4,5	View videos.
2	Cultural dances around the world ■ India ■ Japan ■ Cambodia ■ China	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 1 & 2. View Video Clips reaction papers
3	Greek ■ Theatrical Dance	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 3 Quiz
4	Medieval ■ Dance of Death	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 4 View film
5	The Renaissance ■ Elizabethan ■ French Baroque: 'Ballet de la court'	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 5 See Dance Performance Quiz
6	Eighteenth Century ■ Social Dances	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 6 View Video Clips
7	Development of Ballet ■ 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Romantic Period	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 7  Quiz
8	■ Review ■ Midterm (Chapters 1 - 7)	1,2,3,4,5	
9	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Pioneers ■ Loie Fuller ■ Isadora Duncan	1,2,3,4,5	Read Chapter 8, View Video Clips
10	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century ■ Development of Modern Dance - Martha Graham, Ruth St. Denis ■ Golden Age of Ballet - George Balanchine, American Ballet Theatre ■ German Expressionism -Mary Wigman, Kurt Joos	1,2,3,4,5	Read Part 1 & 2 Chapter 9,  View Films  Quiz

11	<p>Early Tap Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Minstrel Show</li> <li>■ Vaudeville</li> <li>■ Hollywood</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4,5	<p>Read Chapter 10</p> <p>View Videos Clips</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opera Dance</li> <li>■ Musical Theatre Dance</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4,5	<p>Chapter 11</p> <p>Reaction Paper Due</p>
13	<p>Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century/Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century Avante-Garde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Merce Cunningham</li> <li>■ Alwin Nikolais</li> <li>■ Twyla Tharp</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4,5	<p>Chapter 12 Part 1</p> <p>View Film</p> <p>Quiz</p>
14	<p>21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Break dancing</li> <li>■ Hip-Hop</li> <li>■ Zumba</li> <li>■ Bachada</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4,5	<p>Chapter 12, Part 2</p> <p>View Video Clips</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Final Exam (Chapters 8 – 12)</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4,5	