

### **DANCE 845 - ISSUES OF CHOREOGRAPHY I G 3**

Investigation of the choreographic process, emphasis on the dynamics of movement  
1st quarter of a 3 quarter sequence; Two - 1-1/2 hour classes each week

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate program in dance or permission of instructor

#### **I. Objectives**

At the successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- demonstrate artistic process skills applicable to solo choreography
- create short (2-3 minute) multiple solutions to specific choreographic problems
- demonstrate perceptual abilities through verbal description and written work
- evaluate choreography and performer in relation to concepts covered
- demonstrate a sensitivity to the need for expanding one's choreographic vocabulary
- coach other students in class assignments
- demonstrate an expanded dynamic movement range
- understand diversity of approaches and expressions in the field of dance
- understand creative problem solving.

#### **II. Course Content and Procedures**

Content is presented through a combination of concept descriptions and guided improvisations. The format includes performing two drafts of four assigned solos. Process includes working in partners and small groups assisting each other with possible solutions to the problem. Critiquing is done by students and teacher. Approximately 2-1/2 weeks are devoted to each of the four solo studies (each approximately 2-3 minutes in length).

- Investigation of connectedness, center of weight, gravity, sequentiality/movement flow
- Exploration and application of weight qualities: resiliency, strength, lightness, and variations thereof
- Choreographic exploration of concepts of locomotion
- Exploration of choreographic issues: development/change, momentum, transition, time, performance space, shape, gesture
- Investigation of relationship between movement, meaning/connotation, and context.

#### **III. Requirements**

- Completion of two drafts of each of the four assigned solos (2-3 minutes in length)
- Participation in final class showing (scheduled during final's week at regularly assigned final exam time)

- Regular attendance and participation
- Concert attendance (Approximately five events are selected from the Production Calendar).
- Final paper; due Friday of last week of classes. (A commentary on your ability to apply course concepts to your own choreography as well as to choreography of others. Incorporate readings and video viewings)
- Informal workshop, concert attendance and video viewing.

#### IV. Evaluation

- Comprehension and ability to deal with the focus of each assignment
- Ability to transform assignment into personal movement response
- Contribution to class discussion/coaching sessions
- Written work

#### V. Grading

Degree of accomplishment of course objectives is evidenced by:

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| • Ability to recapture essence of assignments for final showing/exam              | 50% |
| • Degree of originality: ability to demonstrate personal solutions to assignments | 25% |
| • Quality of written work   | 15% |
| • Attendance (more than 2 absences will affect grade)                             | 10% |

#### VI. Required Reading

- Dell, Cecily. A Primer for Movement Description. NY: Dance Notation Bureau, Inc., 1970.
- Humphrey, Doris. The Art of Making Dances. NY: Grove Press, 1974.

#### VII. Required Video Viewing

#W041: "Retracing Steps: American Dance Since Post-Modernism". 88 minutes.

#### VIII Selected References

- Blom, L. & Tarin Chaplin. The Intimate Act of Choreography. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1982.
- Preston-Dunlop, Valerie. A Handbook for Dance in Education. London: Macdonald & Evans, 1983.