

Classroom Management

Plan Course: Modern/
Composition Teacher: Ms.
Lewis

Course Description: This course will introduce the student to the fundamentals of modern dance and will explore the principles of composition. It introduces basic modern dance technique and movement terminology the first semester, focusing on basic human anatomy, the elements of dance including time, space, and energy and how they are used both in the classroom and to compose effective movement phrases, as well as creative personal expression. The beginning level techniques Lester Horton and Jose Limon will be explored, with additional exposure to the technique of Martha Graham as well as other more eclectic forms. Second semester we will concentrate on developing the tools of effective composition and choreography through multiple inclass movement studies and exercises. This course will include lecture and demonstration, written critical analysis of concert dance performancebased projects, researchbased projects, use of audio, video, and computer equipment for creating/ editing purposes, with resultant reflection, assessment, and discussion of works viewed.

Course Objective: Students will learn to:

- Demonstrate proper body alignment appropriate to modern dance technique.
- Execute basic modern dance technique through exploration of movement including floor work, standing work, movement across the floor, and larger movement phrases in center.
- Demonstrate the strength, coordination, and rhythmic ability necessary to execute the technical skill covered in the course.
- Explore and understand the concepts of fall and recover, contract and release, suspension, and counterbalance.
- Evaluate movement skills in terms of space, time, and energy, and reproduce accurately through movement using their own body.
- Use modern dance technique to explore initial efforts of composition through manipulation of space, time, and energy.
- Begin a more indepth exploration of the manipulation of time, space, and energy through inclass composition exercises, individually, in pairs, and in groups, designed to facilitate creation of students' own choreography as well as effective compositional designs.

- Explore and implement the fundamentals of improvisation and contact improvisation into their own choreography.
- Gain an understanding of the history of modern dance and the many career opportunities available, through the use of video, handouts, the internet, and discussion.
- Think critically and write reflectively after viewing live dance performances.
- Perform a piece of student choreography for an audience as part of classroom assignment.

Grading Procedure: Grading is accumulative over the course of the semester and is based on several criteria. Students will be graded on **daily participation** (attendance, attitude, effort, and progress), **tests and quizzes**, **assignments** (in class and homework), **projects and papers**, **participation** in the end of semester concert, and the **studentchoreographed final with notebook submission**. Participation is a significant portion of the overall grade and counts as 50% of each quarter grade. Students are required to participate in the end of semester concert (whether dancing or assisting) and failure to participate will result in a 10 percent lowering of the final grade. All excused absences, excused tardies, and excused nondresses/ nonparticipation **MUST** be made up in order to preserve the attendance portion of the participation grade. PLEASE NOTE: Unexcused absences, tardies and truancies **CANNOT** be made up.

Participation (attendance, attitude, effort, and progress) 50% Tests and quizzes 15%
 Project and papers/ class assignments/ homework 15% Student choreography final/
 notebook submission 20% _____ 100% ***Lack of participation in the end of semester concert will result in a 10% drop in the student's final grade.**

Homework/ Attendance/ Participation:

- All homework, papers, and projects are to be turned in or performance ready by the due date assigned.
- Students may turn assigned work in by the end of the day and still receive credit.
- Extensions will not be given unless there are extenuating circumstances out of the student's control and are verified by a parent/guardian.
- Class time missed due to school business may be made up, however, other absences, tardies, and truancies may not. Makeup work will be reflected in the grade for the reporting period in which it's turned in.

- Time outside of class for the Student Choreography Assignment is not required, however, students may feel it is necessary to put in extra hours in order to submit clean work.
- All students are required to view an outside professional dance performance each semester and write a critique. Selection of this performance should happen **within two weeks** after the assignment is given. I WILL HAVE A LIST OF MANY PERFORMANCE FOR STUDENTS TO CHOOSE FROM POSTED IN THE STUDIO. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LIST AND IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND ONE! There are performances available in larger theaters as well as small local ones, and in all price ranges, including some that are free. Choose one that is right for your circumstances! **Late papers due to procrastination are not accepted!**
- Students are expected to participate in class every day. **Our department does not accept parent notes for nonparticipation.** If there is an injury that requires nonparticipation, the student will be required to submit a doctor's note to sit out during class time, and also a medical release in order to resume activity. If you do not have a doctor's note but it is obvious to me that you truly need to modify your activity, I will make sure that you are taken care of (only barre, no jumping, etc). Period cramps are not an excuse for nonparticipation! If you need to sit out for the day you are expected to handle it respectfully and responsibly by coming up to me immediately upon entering the studio, to inform me of the problem, present your doctor's note, and ask for permission to sit out.
- Students who sit out for the day will be required to turn in 3 pages of class observations written in class that day.
- **Students must participate, either by dancing or assisting, in the end of the semester dance performances.** A failure to do so will result in a 10% loss in their final grade. **Place dates on your calendar NOW!**

Consequences: Infractions of school rules or class expectations will be dealt with as follows:

- First verbal warning
- Second student/teacher conference and possible phone call home
- Third phone call home and possible office referral
- Fourth office referral requesting a two day referral

- **The teacher reserves the right to remove a student with greater than ten absences in a semester from a show. This will be done at the teacher's discretion, and an alternative assignment will be given.**

Extra Credit Policy: Extra credit work may be possible in certain situations. If you feel it is necessary or you have the desire, please schedule time to discuss the matter with me.

Classroom Etiquette and Student Responsibilities:

- Please be on time. Latecomers are distracting and risk injury from not being warmed up.
- Dress appropriately for each class, each day according to the dress code. **Keep an extra pair of sweats in your locker** for emergency situations when you've left dance clothes in the washer, car, etc.
- There will be many times we will use cell phones for music when brainstorming or rehearsing for student choreography, **YOU MAY NOT HAVE CELL PHONES OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!** To that end, I will have a receptacle on my desk for dancers to place phones in while we are giving announcements, etc. If we need phones for rehearsal, student chor., etc. you may then retrieve them.
- Respect others' space. Show courtesy to fellow dancers by observing personal space, not crowding, not walking in front of those still dancing, not stopping in the middle of traveling combinations.
- Respect school property and the property of others. Keep studio and dressing areas clean, free of your papers and trash.
- You will be given a locker in the dressing room. **Keep it locked at all times** so your belongings will be safe. Unfortunately, theft does occasionally occur so please **keep all valuables locked in your locker!**
- Please refrain from talking during class and demonstrations, but please don't hesitate to ask questions!
- No gum, food, or drinks (except water) will be allowed into the studio.
- Follow all school rules while in campus.
- Maintain a positive attitude. Be patient, kind, courteous, and helpful to others in the class. **DISRESPECT TO THE TEACHER OR OTHER STUDENTS WILL NOT**

BE TOLERATED.

- In all classrooms at Santa Susana there will be:
 - NO eating.
 - NO headphones (unless used for a classroom assignment).
 - NO cell phones (unless used for a classroom assignment).
 - NO hoodies on your head.
 - NO sunglasses on during class.
 - NO sleeping or heads down during class.

Dress Code: The dress code must be followed so instructors can see your placement, alignment, and body position and to insure the ease of movement. Girls:

- Hair back and off face
 - Solid color leotard or snug fitting baby tee (need to be able to see lines of torso)
 - Tights under street clothes are not okay!
 - Black tights, leggings, or slim fitted jazz pants. NO BAGGY SWEATS!
- Bare feet or half soles. Light jazz shoes okay if necessary. NO dance sneakers. It is important to be able to work through the feet. Boys:
 - White form fitting Tshirt or tank
 - Black jazz pants or fitted sweats

Local Dancewear Shops:

Dancer's Wearhouse Ballet Arts Dancewear 2808 Cochran St. 31308 Via Colinas, #102 Simi Valley Westlake Village (805) 578 4622 (805) 597 2110

Pas de Deux Dancewear Capezio Shop 5853 Kanan Rd. 7128 Owensmouth Agoura Hills Canoga Park (818) 707 1425 (818) 348 4488