

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance Theory I-IV orients students to the field of dance as an academic discipline, profession, and art form. To this end, this course arms students with information and processes of inquiry so as to facilitate their own decision making as they proceed in the field of dance. Topics to be covered may include: an introduction to dance as an art form; dance history; dance as a product of culture; the relationship of dance technique to the overall field: repertory, dance in entertainment-jazz, musical theater, hip hop, ballroom; applied kinesiology as it relates to the efficiency of movement; career preparation; dance production; labanotation; and strategies for effective learning, professional engagement, and longevity in the discipline. Through extensive viewing of video and live dance performance and subsequent writings and discussions, students learn to identify, describe, analyze, and interpret choreographic practices, characteristics of performers, different uses of production elements, and the aesthetic, political, social, and cultural contexts that characterize the state of the art today.

Beginning Repertory introduces students to combinations from established repertory and provides opportunities to learn excerpts as well as short choreographic works in a variety of dance styles such as ballet, modern, and jazz. Students also experience learning repertory from the Repertory Etudes Project with the American Dance Legacy Institute with etudes by master choreographers such as Donald McKayle, David Parsons, Anna Sokolow, Robert Battle, and others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Each dancer is expected to attend and participate in every class. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for any make up work, both written and skills.
- Written assignments will be in the form of a specific assignment or a journal.
- It is expected that every dancer will dress according to the Dance Department Dress Code (Black leotard and tights without feet, colored leotards on Friday) and that hair be worn off the face and neck. For the safety of the dancers, no jewelry is worn during class.
- There will be a skills test or formative assessment approximately every other week; participation grades will be given weekly; an improvement grade is given at the end of each six weeks.
- If a student cannot participate in class due to an illness or an injury, **a note, e-mail, or a phone call that day is required! After one week of non-participation, a student must have a note from a physician.**
- If a student cannot participate in class, he/she must complete an observation assignment to be turned in at the end of class that day.

EVALUATION

Participation:	40%
Participation grades will be given weekly on effort, approach, and daily work	
Skill:	25%
Skill mastery grades will be given every other week in the form of a skills test or formative assessment	
Skills Test/Project:	15%
Improvement:	20%
Effort, approach, daily work	

COURSE SCHEDULE

First Six Weeks: The students will

- Experience fundamentals of performance through the use of imagery
- Study the history surrounding the original intent of the choreography of the works studied.
- Discover and develop performance skills that include both technique and performance quality.
- Understand and appreciate the skills that are specific to the repertory.
- Master dance techniques and skills required of each dance performed.
- Gain performing experience at BTWHSPVA on an introductory scale.
- Explore repertory that will include but is not limited to solo repertory from the American Dance Legacy Institute- Repertory Etudes Project

Second Six Weeks: Continuation of the exploration of learning repertory at the beginning level

- Parsons Etude Choreography by David Parsons, music by Tony Powell
- Rainbow Etude Choreography by Donald McKayle, music is traditional
- Group choreography from the following: original work, Tidal Intersections, solo repertory from BTW's library

Third Six Weeks: Review of all of the repertory for the jury exam. Students must master all repertory learned during the semester and will "draw" the two works that will be evaluated.