*I do not know what the spirit of a philosopher could more wish*

*to be than a good dancer. For the dance is his ideal.*

*~ Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche ~*

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**A Days,** YMCA

4th Block

Mondays & Thursdays: 2:06-3:21

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 1:51-3:16

**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of different dances and forms of movement from around the world. Students learn basic techniques and gain anatomical awareness as they develop artistic skills, physical creativity, and technical proficiency. Through participation and effort, students gain movement skills, develop confidence, and find enjoyment through movement in this class.  Students also examine the dance and movement forms through historical and cultural contexts.

**Learning and Language Objectives**

Through movement, practice, observation, discussion, and research, students will be able to . . .

* achieve basic understanding of various forms of dance and movement from around the world.
* physically demonstrate various dance skills.
* display proper dance etiquette.
* learn and perform choreography.
* demonstrate understanding of choreography principles through creation of their own choreographed sequences.

**Attire**

Appropriate clothing is required for student safety and freedom of movement. Student will be allowed 5 extra minutes after the bell to change. Approved clothing includes: yoga pants, gym/exercise shorts, t-shirts, and tank-tops. We will dance bare-foot, but split-sole jazz shoes and ballet slippers are welcome. Girls should be able to tie their hair back. You are welcomed and encouraged to bring water in a closeable container to class.

**Class Etiquette**

Although we are using the YMCA for our class, we are guests in the space and must be extra cautious in our maintenance of the facilities. Please abide by the following:

* Use the locker-room designated for women/men under 18. This is partially for your safety.
* Do not bring valuables with you to class.
* NO food or drink allowed in the dance studio (except water.)
* The coffee provided by the YMCA is for Y staff and members only. If you are a member of the Y, you may enjoy the coffee after school, NOT during school hours.
* NO gum while dancing.
* NO cell phones are to be used during class time.
* Arrive on time and properly dressed. NO shoes (except approved dance shoes).
* Do not wear or bring street-shoes into the studio.
* Do not bring purses or bags to class.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend each class prepared to participate fully in discussions and exercises. Skipping class or failing to come prepared will lower your grade. If you cannot dance or participate in the day’s activities, you will be expected to complete a class-observation form and turn it in at the end of class. All students are responsible for making up missed class work on their own time. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Assignments**

You will have two major assignments this semester in addition to required attendance and participation in the dance concert at the end of the semester.

 Assignment 1: Dance Performance Review

You will either attend a live dance performance or you will find a full-length dance performance to view online, you must bring me the tickets to the event, or send me the URL. You will analyze and critique the performance in the form of a one-page, typed, double-spaced, review which you will submit to turnitin.com by Thursday, October 31st.

 Assignment 2: Original Dance Program

You will create your own dance program of 3 songs/dances. You must choose a variety of music that showcases different moods, styles, and dance techniques. The written aspect of this assignment (a one-page paper that explains the reasoning behind each of your musical selections, the order, and your overall artistic vision for your “performance”) will be due on Monday, December 16th. The visual aspect (30 seconds of original choreography for each piece of music – 90 seconds total) will be due when classes resume on Tuesday, January 7th.

**Academic Honesty**

Presenting another person’s words or thoughts as your own is illegal and unacceptable in academic writing. In this course we will discuss how to quote, document, summarize and paraphrase sources, and I will expect you to use sources responsibly. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a 0 for the task. Repeat offenses will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

 Class Participation (you are on-time, dressed 50%

 appropriately, and participate fully in

 class activities and exercises)

 Assignment 1: 10%

 Assignment 2: 20%

 Final Performance: 20%

**Grade Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+AA- | 97-100%94-96%90-93% | B+BB- | 87-89%84-86%80-83% | C+CC- | 77-79%74-76%70-73% | D+DD- | 67-69%64-66%60-63% | F | 0-59% |

*“All that is important is this one moment in movement. Make the moment important, vital, and worth living. Do not let it slip away unnoticed and unused.”
~*[*Martha Graham*](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/47790.Martha_Graham) *~*

*“I see dance being used as communication between body and soul, to express what it too deep to find for words.”*

*~ Ruth St. Denis ~*

*“To touch, to move, to inspire. This is the true gift of dance.”*

*~ Aubrey Lynch ~*