

Syllabus for  
**DANP 101—Beginning Modern Dance**  
1 Credit Hour  
Fall 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of beginning modern dance technique with emphasis on developing a foundation in body alignment, vocabulary, technique, and artistry. (This class is designed for two semesters.)  
Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

II. COURSE GOALS

In this beginning level course we will introduce principles of modern dance initially through studying fall and recovery, contraction and release, opposition and succession, as well as basic movement of the torso and pelvis in curves, tilts, spirals, contractions.... This will prepare the student to learn foundational modern dance techniques. We will also seek to develop an understanding of modern dance from a Biblical perspective through the pursuit of discipline and excellence in our technical and artistic work. (See Modern Technique Schedule in Dance Handbook).

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Demonstrate a healthy, efficient body alignment
- B. Execute basic elements of technique (gaining strength and flexibility) curves, arcs, tilts, spirals, contractions
- C. Use weight and effort to show variance in qualities/dynamics of Movement
- D. Maintain clarity of movement while working with mixed music meter
- E. Travel through space with proper alignment and to apply this to various ranges of space
- F. Move between three levels of space (high, mid, low)
- G. Link movements together as indicated in larger movement phrases
- H. Demonstrate basic principles of *fall and recovery*, *contraction and release*, and *opposition and succession*, found in the dance techniques explored in this course
- I. Incorporate appropriate focus/gaze throughout class

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Reading

Textbooks

Penrod, James and Janice Plastino. (2005). The dancer prepares. Richmond: Mayfield Publishing Company. ISBN 9780072557268

## Optional Materials

### Textbooks

Love, Paul. (1997). Modern dance terminology. NJ: Princeton Book Company.  
ISBN 9780871272065

## V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

### B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business,

and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.

2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
  - a. Inform the professor before the event.
  - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
  - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
  - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts, and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication, Arts, and Media WPA handbook for policies at (<http://oru.edu>), click on **Academics**, then **WPA**, then **Department Resources**, then **CAM Handbook HTML**.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures:
  - a. Attendance
  - b. Accomplishment of Course Objectives: 75%  
(Assignments 35% and Exams 40%)
  - c. Attitude and Effort: 25%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

Course Requirements

- a. **Attire:** Please refer to the Dance Department Handbook for complete information. This class is required to have bare feet.
- b. **Assignments:**

- (1) Students are to keep a folder in which they record personal technical insights, examples of imagery, corrections, vocabulary and the processing of such, as well as weekly assignments. Please use a 3-brad/pocket folder for journaling and retaining handouts and assignments. The folder should be available for the instructor's review at anytime.
  - (2) Attendance at one dance concert or view one videotaped performance (must turn in ticket stub stapled to program) and one 1 ½-2 page double-spaced, typed dance critique of a modern dance performance *or videotaped performance* upon teacher approval.
- c. **Ensemble Auditions:** All dance majors are required to participate in all Dance Ensemble auditions and in any other departmental auditions for experience. **(Please refer to the Dancer Handbook for further details)**
- d. **Evaluations:**
- (1) Movement evaluations: Students will be graded on their technical/artistic performance to provide feedback concerning whether the student has attained to the objectives of this course. The content of the evaluation classes will consist of material already given during the semester.
  - (2) Self/Peer-evaluations: Students may participate in self-evaluations and peer evaluations throughout the semester.
  - (3) Throughout the semester, students may be given written quizzes covering concepts and vocabulary discussed in class.
- e. Each student should be prepared and ready to dance five minutes before the scheduled class time.
- f. Dance Class Format: The modern dance class format is as follows:
- (1) Warm-up
  - (2) Center-work to increase technique and flexibility
  - (3) Dance phrases in the center or traveling across the floor
  - (4) Improvisation or movement studies
  - (5) Cool-down exercises to end the class
- g. Attire: See Dance handbook
- h. For prolonged injury procedure, please see Dance Handbook.
- i. Modern Dance Classroom Etiquette: Classroom considerations for modern dance class are similar to those for other concert dance forms. A student should become aware of his/her body as it moves through the space and in relation to other bodies. The student should be quiet and respond to the instructor in a respectful manner.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

**First Semester and Second Semester**

**\*Weekly written assignments/self evaluation**

Week 1-4: Alignment, Technique (curves, tilts, spirals, contractions)

**\*WEEK 5: Student is required to schedule an office appointment to discuss progress with Professor**

Week 5-7: Quality of movement, Rhythm/Musicality, Improvisation

Week 8: Review and Test

Week 9-11: Effort/Space, Change of level

Week 12-14: Phrasing, Principles of fall and recovery, contraction and release, opposition and succession, Focus, Improvisation

Week 15: Review and Test

## Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

### DANP 101—Beginning Modern Dance Fall 2012

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			x	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			x	
1C	Evangelistic capability				x
1D	Ethical behavior	x			
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	x			
2B	Information literacy		x		
2C	Global & historical perspectives		x		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	x			
2E	Intellectual creativity	x			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle	x			
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle	x			
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		x		
4B	Interpersonal skills		x		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	x			
4D	Responsible citizenship	x			
4E	Leadership capacity		x		