

Syllabus for  
**DANP 104—Modern Dance I**  
1 Credit Hour  
Spring 2024

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of elementary modern dance technique with an emphasis on developing a foundation in body alignment, vocabulary, technique, and artistry. (See Modern Technique Schedule in Dance Handbook).

(This class is designed for two semesters.)

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. To demonstrate a healthy, efficient body alignment and maintain throughout center work
- B. To execute basic elements of technique (gaining strength and flexibility) with confidence and to begin to apply principle of initiation of movement to technical work (i.e.: where does the plié start from?); curves, arcs, tilts, spirals, contractions
- C. To use weight and effort to show variance in qualities/dynamics of Movement
- D. To maintain clarity of movement while working with mixed music meter
- E. To travel through space with proper alignment and to apply this to various ranges of space
- F. To move between three levels of space (high, mid, low)
- G. To link movements together as indicated in larger movement phrases
- H. To demonstrate basic principles of *fall and recovery*, *contraction and release*, and *opposition and succession*, found in the dance techniques explored in this course
- I. To incorporate appropriate focus/gaze throughout class

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program

- A. Dance
  - a. Dance Outcome 2: The student will demonstrate advanced skill level III in ballet or modern dance in alignment, artistry, connectivity, physical capacity, movement principles, musicality and agency.
  - b. Dance Outcome 4: The student will criticize and assess dance performance identifying choreographic, theatrical, and performance elements, as well as synthesize content and opinions based on evaluations of observational evidence.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page [only list the University Outcomes addressed by this course]

- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit

## V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

### A. Required Materials

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

## VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. 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.

B. 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.

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

### **First Semester and Second Semester**

#### **\*Weekly written assignments/self evaluations and journal entries**

Week 1-3: Alignment, Technique (curves, tilts, spirals, contractions)

Week 5-6: Quality of movement, Rhythm/Musicality, Improvisation

Week 7: Review and Test

Week 8-10: Effort/Space, Change of level

Week 11-13: Phrasing, Principles of fall and recovery, contraction and release, opposition and succession, Focus, Improvisation

Week 14: Review and Test

**Primary Program: Dance  
DANP 104 Modern Dance I  
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This course contributes to the University and program 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.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
<b>Spiritual Integrity</b>			
<b>Personal Resilience</b>			
<b>Dance Outcome 2:</b> The student will demonstrate advanced skill level III in ballet or modern dance in alignment, artistry, connectivity, physical capacity, movement principles, musicality and agency.	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome A:</b> To demonstrate a healthy, efficient body alignment and maintain throughout center work	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome B:</b> To execute basic elements of technique (gaining strength and flexibility) with confidence and to begin to apply principle of initiation of movement to technical work (i.e.: where does the plié start from?); curves, arcs, tilts, spirals, contractions	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome C:</b> To use weight and effort to show variance in qualities/dynamics of Movement	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome D:</b> To maintain clarity of movement while working with mixed music meter	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome E:</b> To travel through space with proper alignment and to apply this to various ranges of space	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome F:</b> To move between three levels of space (high, mid, low)	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome G:</b> To link movements together as indicated in larger movement phrases	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome H:</b> To demonstrate basic principles of <i>fall and recovery, contraction and release, and opposition and succession</i> , found in the dance techniques explored in this course	X		
<b>DANP 104 Outcome I:</b> To incorporate appropriate focus/gaze throughout class	X		
<b>Intellectual Pursuit</b>			
<b>Dance Outcome 4:</b> The student will criticize and assess dance performance identifying choreographic, theatrical, and performance elements, as well as synthesize content and opinions based on evaluations of observational evidence.	X		
<b>Global Engagement</b>			
<b>Bold Vision</b>			