

LSC Use Only
Number: _____
Submission Date: _____
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UWUCC USE Only
Number: 94-636
Submission Date: _____
Action-Date: App-1/24/95
Senate App-3/14/95

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. CONTACT

Contact Person Barbara Blackledge Phone 357-4450
Department Theater

II. PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)

TH 351 COURSE Choreography
Suggested 20 character title

XXX New Course* TH 351 Choreography
Course Number and Full Title

___ Course Revision _____
Course Number and Full Title

___ Liberal Studies Approval + _____
for new or existing course Course Number and Full Title

___ Course Deletion _____
Course Number and Full Title

___ Number and/or Title Change _____
Old Number and/or Full Old Title

New Number and/or Full New Title

___ Course or Catalog Description Change _____
Course Number and Full Title

___ PROGRAM: ___ Major ___ Minor ___ Track

___ New Program* _____
Program Name

___ Program Revision* _____
Program Name

___ Program Deletion* _____
Program Name

___ Title Change _____
Old Program Name

New Program Name

III. Approvals (signatures and date)

Barbara Blackledge 10/14/94
Department Curriculum Committee

Annie Laurie Wheeler 10/14/94
Department Chair

[Signature]
College Curriculum Committee

[Signature] 10/17/94
College Dean

+ Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable)

*Provost (where applicable)

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

TH 351 Choreography

3 credits
3 class hours
3c-01-3sh

Prerequisites: Have taken one of the introductory or advanced level dance classes (Th 150, 250, 260, 270, 280, 485, or 486) or permission of the instructor.

This course introduces the necessary choreographic tools needed to manipulate dance as a medium to create dance works. The class will learn and use various approaches to the choreographic process to create dance works, one of which will be presented in a public showing at the end of the semester.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements & tools of choreography, in both theory and practice.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the body as a highly effective means of communication, with movement as the creative medium, by actively engaging in a series of choreographic studies.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of the various choreographic processes through application.
4. To demonstrate an understanding of the dance as a creative aesthetic experience through viewing, analyzing & discussing mature artists' works.
5. To demonstrate an understanding of how to hold an audition, cast a dance, rehearse and present a work to a live audience

III. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Basic Elements of Dance (3 hours)
 1. Weight
 2. Time
 3. Flow
 4. Space
- B. The End Product - Choreographer (3 hours)
 1. The role of the Choreographer
 2. Meaning through movement
- C. Sources of Subject Matter (3 hours)
 1. Mind-mapping
 2. Drawing out Insight
 3. Choreographic research
 4. Choreographer's box
- D. The Theme (3 hours)
 1. Artistic Intention
 2. Improvisation / Exploration
 3. Motif
- E. The Craft Tools (12 hours)
 1. Structural
 - a. Solo - Group
 - b. Symmetry and Asymmetry
 - c. Phrasing
 - d. Stage Space
 - e. Dynamics

- f. Rhythm
 - g. Motivation & Gesture
 - 2. Words
 - 3. Music
 - 4. Props & Sets
 - 5. Form
- F. Feedback (3 hours)
 - 1. Pitfalls
 - 2. Discriminating Criticism
 - 3. Self Evaluation
- G. Final Project (15 hours)
 - 1. Auditions & Casting
 - 2. Rehearsals
 - 3. Feedback showing in class
 - 4. Public Showing of Final projects

IV. EVALUATION METHODS

The final grade for the course will be determined by the following:

- 35% Class participation. Includes, but is not limited by the following: attendance (at all scheduled classes, rehearsals), attitude, active participation in class discussion and class activities, and timely reading of assignments.
- 25% Weekly projects. Short choreographic studies based on the week's topic.
- 5% Choreographer's Journal
- 35% Final Project. A dance work presented to a public audience, with sound, costumes, programs, and advertisement.

A grade scale will be provided by the individual instructor.

V. REQUIRED TEXT

Humphrey, Doris (1959). *The Art of Making Dances*. New York: Grove Press.

[Supplemental handouts will be provided in class.]

VI. SPECIAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Blank video cassette (1/2")
Journal

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Copeland, Roger & Cohen, Marshall (1983) *What Is Dance?*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Carnes, Edwin & Ellfeldt, Lois (1971) *Dance Production Handbook or Later Is Too Late*, California: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Ellfeldt, Lois (1967) *A Primer for Choreographers*, California: Mayfield Publishing Company.

May, Rollo (1975) *The Courage to Create*, New York: Double

Day Publishing Group.

Penrod, James (1974) *Movement for the Performing Artist*, California: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Samuels M.D., Mike and Samuels, Nancy (1975) *Seeing With the Mind's Eye*, New York: Random House.

Shahn, Ben (1975) *The Shape of Content*, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Steinberg, Cobbett (Ed.) (1980) *The Dance Anthology*, New York: New American Library.

Turner, Margery (1971) *New Dance, Approaches to Non literal Choreography*, Pennsylvania: University of Pittsburgh Press.

COURSE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

A. Details of the Course (Choreography)

- A1. This course is an elective for students in the Theater Curriculum and other students interested in the topic. The course is not intended for inclusion in the Liberal Studies program.
- A2. This course does not require changes in any other courses or programs in the department.
- A3. This course is being offered as part of TH 481 Special Topics in spring 1995.
- A4. This course is not intended for dual level.
- A5. This course is not taken for variable credit.
- A6. Similar courses are offered at other institutions: Slippery Rock, Temple University, Point Park College, Penn State University, and West Chester University.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

- B1. This course will be taught by one instructor.
- B2. This course does not overlap with any other course at the University.
- B3. This course, if space is available, is open for Continuing Education students.

C. Implementation

- C1. Faculty resources are adequate to teach this course every semester.
- C2. All other resources are adequate towards teaching this course.
- C3. No grant funds are associated with this course.
- C4. This course will be offered every semester.
- C5. One section will be offered at a time.
- C6. Twelve to sixteen students can be accommodated in this course. The logistics of scheduling the performances of the work generated by the students prohibits a larger class. Time is needed for the professor to critique all of the individual works and to work with each student on a one-to-one basis.
- C7. No professional society recommends enrollment limits.

D. Miscellaneous

This course was part of the original projections for a series of dance courses in the Department of Theater. The two faculty with a specialization in dance can cover the teaching of this course along with the rotation of the other dance classes.