

Beginning Modern Dance (3 credits)
 CRN: 63526
 Class Meets: MW 11:30am-12:45pm
 Email: durranta@hawaii.edu
 Office Hours: M 9am -10am & 4pm – 5pm
 W 9am -10am & 1pm – 2pm

Lecturer: Alex Durrant
 Location: A`o102
 Office: 138 Hala Palanakila

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

Catalog Course Description

Introduction to modern dance technique. May be repeated up to 9 credits.

This course is about developing modern dance technique giving students the opportunity to gain a solid foundation of skills in this style of dance. Students will take part in regular technique classes in order to develop the skills required to dance in a modern style. Students will gain the underpinning knowledge of the skills needed to progress in the performance of modern dance. They must be aware of their technical ability in order to evaluate their progress and improve. This course introduces the essentials of modern technique; it will develop strength, flexibility, stamina, and coordination.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Correctly define modern dance terminology
- Demonstrate kinesthetic proficiency in modern dance technique through performance
- Demonstrate conceptual understanding of contemporary modern dance technique

Attendance Policies

Students are expected to arrive on time, ready to dance, and stay for the entire class session. Latecomers may not join in the class without permission from the instructor; instead, they will actively participate by watching the class, taking notes, and being responsible for class subject matter and assignments.

DANCE PROGRAM ATTENDANCE POLICY: *More than 3 absences will significantly lower the grade. After 4 absences, each absence will lower the grade by a full letter. Three "tardies" equal an absence. Medically excused absences will be dealt with on an individual basis.*

Active Participation Expectations

Students must be eager to both think and sweat at the same time. An alert body and mind are expected.

Students are expected to actively participate in each class unless medically unable.

Active participation is shaped by a particular mindset: motivated, open-minded, supportive, exploratory, and patient. This class will challenge your Learning Edge:

"Your Learning Edge is the balance between taking risks and taking care of yourself, the boundary of your discovery zone and your comfort zone. In your comfort zone, you don't learn anything. When you take risks and move beyond where you are comfortable, you enter a discovery zone where this opportunity to learn. Learning happens by creating new experiences and failures in your discovery zone, and then reflecting upon and evaluating them in your comfort zone. You will not learn anything by spending all your time in either zone, and the dance back and forth is what I call your Learning Edge." (Morgan Rich)

Health Statement

Please notify the instructor if there are any particular physical concerns that affect your ability to dance. An *Acknowledgment of Risk/Medical Consent Form* must be completed and submitted to the instructor on the first day of class.

Disabilities Accommodation Statement

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information. Please Note: This course takes a tactile teaching approach. Tactile teaching involves hands-on correction by the instructor, and is a valuable teaching aid in assisting the student in understanding aspects of proper alignment, placement and movement concepts during class. Physical contact may range from simple touch to correct alignment to relaxation massage. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If this makes you uncomfortable, please notify the professor and appropriate modifications will be made.

Course Assignments

- A. **Reflection Journal/Portfolio:** Students will be required to keep and evaluative log of their practical activities. Students are required to identify their strengths and weaknesses in reference to defined modern dance practical activity so that they can develop their technical skills. For tutors to gain an insight into how learners intend to do this, they need to be encouraged to self-evaluate their progress and performances. Instructor will provide prompts for short entries each class period and occasional more in-depth check-ins, such as at mid-term. Course *handouts* and *assignments* are also collected here to form an ongoing portfolio of work.
- B. **Complete a variety of in-class activities** Students will be assessed on their participation in practical class activities. The classes may build on movement vocabulary in a number of ways, eg adding on to, quicker, more demanding as well as having new movement phrases and exercises. The development of contemporary dance is integral to this unit and students need to be given opportunities to prepare, learn, develop and rehearse set movement sequences. Students are encouraged to demonstrate independence in their learning and may also lead other students in exercises, sequences and set studies.
- C. **Dance Appreciation Annotated Bibliography:** View and respond to 5 (five) dances on video/DVD.
- D. **Written Critique:** Write about **UHM or other live dance presentations**.
- E. **Creative Final Performance:** Students create their own dances, solos or collaborations of up to 3 students.
- F. **Class Observation Log:** If you must observe class due to injury or illness, please use a "Class Observation Form" to guide your written observations in your journal (collected at the regular times).

Grading

Each student will be evaluated at the level in which they have enrolled. Grades will be based upon attendance, enthusiastic class participation, technical and performance improvement, written and oral assignments, and a growing sense of professional behavior appropriate to studio work and the level of the student. **No incomplete grades will be given in technique class.**

Grading Criteria:

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| A. | Progress in technique | 40% |
| | technical skills | (20%) |
| | performance skills | (20%) |