

Low Intermediate Modern Dance (3 credits)

Lecturer: Alex Durrant

CRN: 61403

Class Meets: TR 10am – 11.15pm

Location: Palanakila 224

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Office: 138 Hala Palanakila

Office Hours: M & W 10.30am – 11.30am & 2.30pm – 3.30 pm
T 9am – 10am

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

Continuing to practice 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:

- Discuss concepts in modern dance utilizing proper terminology
- Develop kinesthetic proficiency in contemporary modern dance technique
- Perform modern dance choreography

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:** Students will be required to book and attend at least 3 one to one sessions with their teacher throughout the semester to discuss their progress. This will not simply consist of tutor feedback but will be a two-way discussion. Students are required to identify their strengths and weaknesses in reference to defined balletic practical activity so that they can develop their technical skills. The teacher and student will work together to achieve the goals set in these sessions.
- 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. Intermediate level students will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamental and relevant technique already gained in the beginner level courses. They must be capable of demonstrating co-ordination, control and accuracy in a range of sequences; performing with an awareness of line; performing with spatial awareness of the body in travelling movements and turning actions and demonstrating an awareness of the appropriate dynamic values in the performance of the vocabulary. There will also be a heavy emphasis on understanding rhythmic frameworks and performing with an awareness of phrasing and appropriate use of musical dynamics. **Intermediate level students will be expected to already have a solid grasp of the basic dance concepts and be able to move forward using well founded technique and interpretive skills.**
- C. **Dance Appreciation/Written Critique:** Students will write a formal paper considering the history of Modern Dance. They will use the knowledge gained in the previous courses in order to track the development of the art form to what we know it as today. They must remember to highlight the key figures and events that they believe have shaped Modern dance. There is also room for showing an understanding of what place Modern Dance has in a contemporary society, for example, how has it had to change to keep up with modern entertainment and other art forms?
- D. **Creative Final Performance:** Students will be taught, memorize and perform excerpts of contemporary repertoire testing dance vocabulary and technique, these may be group pieces or solos. It should be noted that expression, commitment and effort are every bit as important as technical accuracy for grading purposes.
- E. **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:

A.	Progress in technique		40%
	technical skills	(20%)	
	performance skills	(20%)	
B.	Attitude and concentration		50%
C.	Written Assignments		10%

The attendance policy will be adhered to, and will affect the result of the above grading procedure. If a student is injured and unable to participate, they may attentively watch class and submit notes taken on class materials to the instructor (using the “*Class Observation Form*” provided). **If a student is unable to take more than 6 classes due to injury, they will be advised to drop the course.**

The professor will amend the syllabus as may be appropriate. Students will be made aware of any changes to assignments or grading policies.

Dress Code Policy

Students will dance in ballet shoes with clothing that allows the tutor to assess the line of the body. No baggy dance clothing, ankles must be visible. Large or potentially dangerous jewelry and watches are not permitted. Hair needs to be confined and out of the face. Students may consider purchasing kneepads to reduce the potential for irritation when performing movement combinations with floor work. Maintaining proper personal hygiene is a daily class expectation.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

All classes will follow a similar structure, with exercises, phrases, sequences, combinations and studies taught over a number of weeks to enable students to develop physical skills, increase movement memory and challenge their abilities. If students have not had any dance or movement training before starting this unit, they will need to develop basic skills in the first few weeks, for example, establishing correct posture, alignment, distribution of weight, correct positioning of the feet and arms.

During the course exercises will increase in complexity giving students the opportunity to develop their skills further. This unit will provide students with a solid foundation in technique and the opportunity to experience the ways in which dancers are committed to regular technique class, training and evaluation in order to maintain their artistic ‘tools’ or bodies. It is important to allow students to build up their knowledge of contemporary dance over the course of the unit allowing time for corrections, evaluations and target setting to come into effect. Students also need to understand the disciplined way in which a technique class works and demonstrate an improved and developed technique over the course of the unit.

Tutors might like to introduce a variety of styles to enable learners to have a broader understanding of contemporary dance and its many influences. As is often the case the tutor may deliver a class that ‘borrows’ from a whole host of contemporary dance styles that could be appropriate as long as all the unit outcomes are addressed.

Dance Movement Material to be Covered

Intermediate students should have a solid foundation in the below movements from their previous practice, they shall be expected to be able to carry out the moves with precision and a high level of technical skill. There will also be further advanced movements asked of the students, these will be undertaken after discussion with lecturer

Parallel position

5 (or 6) positions of the feet

Plié demi plie and relevé in all positions

grand plie: 1st and 2nd

Placement

Pelvis in relation to the legs and spine

Ribcage/head

Shoulders/arms

Knees/ankles

Foot articulation

Metatarsal, stretched foot

Tendu

Degage

Pas de cheval

Leg/hip articulation

Inward and outward rotation; abduction and adduction; extension and hyperextension; circumduction

Rond de jambe

Leg swings

Grande battements

Torso articulation

Sequencing head to tail and tail to head

Head and tail move together towards one another simultaneously

Isolations: ribs, hips, shoulders

Actions

Weight shift

Swing

Rebound

Suspension

Undercurve

Overcurve

Spatial Directions

Vertical Dimension—up/down

Sagittal Dimension—forward/backward

Horizontal Dimension—side/side

Planes

Vertical Plane—up/down AND side/side
Sagittal Plane—forward/backward AND up/down
Horizontal Plane—side/side AND forward/backward

Locomotor Steps

Walk/run

Jump—two feet to two feet

Hop—one foot to the same foot

Leap—one foot to the other

Skip—step, hop

Gallop (chasse)

Triplet

Directions/pathways in space

Forward

Side

Back

Diagonals

Circles

Movement qualities/flows

Light/Limp

Strong/Heavy

Bound

Free

Quick

Sustained

Smooth

Percussive

Float/glide; flick/dab; punch/slash

Music

Meters: 2/4; 3/4; 4/4; introduction to odd meters

Tempo: varied speed

Advanced Movement options

Turns in second/fouette turns

Grande Allegro

Multiple turns in open positions

Beats

Grand Addage