

Western Michigan University, Department of Dance

Course Descriptions

DANC 1000 First Year Performance

Workshops and experiences related to expanding the student's understanding of dance as an art form and introduction of general skills necessary for a career in dance. Course culminates in performances in the final dances choreographed by DANC 3800 students. Restricted dance majors. 2 hours

DANC 1010 Beginning Ballet

Elementary ballet technique for the general student. The emphasis is placed on line, control, alignment and musicality. Students will learn elementary combinations utilizing fundamental classical ballet vocabulary. 2 hours

DANC 1020 Beginning Jazz

Elementary jazz technique for the general student. Rhythmical integration of isolated movements with emphasis on dynamics, style and performance is stressed. 2 hours

DANC 1030 Beginning Modern

Elementary modern technique for the general student. The emphasis is placed on body integration, locomotor skills, dynamic variety, and musicality. 2 hours

DANC 1040 Beginning Tap

Elementary tap technique for the general student, emphasizing the basic terminology as well as an investigation of rhythm and improvisation as audibly produced by the feet. Some turns and stylized arm movements may be included. 2 hours

DANC 1100 Ballet Technique I

An introduction to the art of ballet, designed for dance majors and minors, primarily concerned with development of ballet technique. Emphasis is placed on basic ballet movement sequences and patterns used to develop control, balance, alignment, musicality, strength and vocabulary at the elementary level. Students will continue in DANC 1100 until advanced to DANC 2100 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 1200 Jazz Technique I

An introduction to the art of jazz dance, designed for dance majors and minors, primarily concerned with development of technique. The emphasis is placed on alignment, movement isolation, rhythmic awareness, basic vocabulary and both percussive and free-flow combinations. Students will continue in DANC 1200 until advanced to DANC 2200 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 1210 Roots of Jazz

An introduction to the basis for the development of contemporary jazz dance forms through exposure to African dance forms and 20th Century American vernacular dance. Students will explore these forms and their interrelationships to contemporary jazz dance styles through movement explorations, videotapes, historical readings, and discussions. Emphasis will be placed on rhythm, syncopation, movement isolation, and improvisation. Live accompaniment and historic music recordings will be used for classes. Required for dance majors and music theatre performance majors. Recommended for dance minors. Not repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 1250 Special Studies in Introductory Dance Technique

A study of areas in introductory dance technique not included in regularly scheduled courses. Examples of possible topics include: Music Theatre Dance Styles, Dance Technique Skill Building, Men's Ballet, and World Dance Forms. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit up to 6 hours.

1 to 6 hours

DANC 1300 Modern Technique I

An introduction to the art of modern dance, designed for dance majors and minors, primarily concerned with development of technique. The emphasis is placed on alignment, range of movement, dynamic quality, rhythmic accuracy and the application of kinesiological principles. Students will continue in DANC 1300 until advanced to DANC 2300 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite: Advisor approval.

2 hours

DANC 1450 Experiencing Dance

An introduction to the art of dance through historical and multicultural perspectives including direct experiences in the studio and viewing of live and recorded performances. Readings, lectures, videos/films, discussions, writings, and movement classes will be used to introduce the student to: non-Western dance, ballet, modern, jazz, tap and other theatrical dance forms. The course also addresses training in dance, the development of movement vocabulary, and the creative process from literal and metaphorical perspectives. Activities are designed to stimulate the perception and enjoyment of dance on a kinesthetic, musical and visual level. The course meets Area I, Fine Arts, General Education requirement.

3 hours

DANC 1480 Direct Encounter with the Arts

A course that uses a direct approach to introduce students to their cultural world by guiding them through first-hand experiences in a number of arts: cinema, photography, theatre, sculpture, music, poetry, dance, and architecture. Classroom discussions are held following the students' participation in the various art events scheduled each semester, with students expected to write journals or response papers about the major events of the course. There will be a course charge in lieu of textbooks. Cross-listed with ART 1480, MUS 1480, THEA 1480. May be taken only once from College of Fine Arts departments/schools.

4 hours

DANC 1800 The Creative Choreographer

A practical experience focusing on the choreographer's creative process for solo dances. Emphasis will be placed on identifying, selecting and utilizing a variety of source material through use of critical evaluation skills for dance, use of choreographic devices, use of improvisation for generating movement, creating meaning through the use of time, space, energy/force, and weight, and creation of a written personal artistic statement. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.

3 hours

DANC 1810 Dance Improvisation

Exploration of movement through spontaneous problem-solving. The course is designed to evoke the student's creative individuality and sense of ensemble.

1 hour

DANC 1850 Music Fundamentals for Dancers

Designed for the novice in music, the course places emphasis on rhythmic skills, but also teaches basic concepts of notation, clefs, scales, key signatures, intervals and triads. The rhythm work begins with reading of simple and compound meters and progresses through complex syncopations and polyrhythmic exercises. Students will be able to read and perform rhythmic patterns using a variety of percussion instruments. Additionally, students will be introduced to formal concepts in music such as phrase, period, cadence and abstract formal designs.

Prerequisite: Dance majors and minors only.

2 hours

DANC 1950 Introduction to Bartenieff FundamentalsSM

This course introduces Irmgard Bartenieff's theories of functional movement. Through practice students will explore major Fundamentals concepts such as body connections, sequencing, movement initiation, mobility/stability and spatial intent. Students will also learn the "Basic Six," a series of movement sequences which are distillations of Bartenieff's theories. 1 hour

DANC 1960 Conditioning for Dancers

An introduction to the principles of physical conditioning with a focus on specific application of the information to individual needs and capacities. The course covers methods of building strength, flexibility and cardiorespiratory endurance as a means of enhancing dance performance, including instruction on equipment such as rotator disks, Therabands, and the Current Concepts Reformer utilizing the Pilates technique. This course, in combination with DANC 2950, meets the Area VIII Health and Well-being General Education requirement for dance majors. Prerequisite: Dance majors and minors. 2 hours

DANC 2100 Ballet Technique II

A development of ballet technique continued from DANC 1100. Emphasis is placed on challenging movement sequences used to increase strength, flexibility, musicality, port de bras and vocabulary at the intermediate level. Students will continue in DANC 2100 until advanced to DANC 3100 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 2200 Jazz Technique II

A development of jazz technique at the intermediate level. Emphasis is on lyrical integration of isolated movements, sequential combinations involving multiple turns, and skills in performance and quick study. Students will continue in DANC 2200 until advanced to DANC 3200 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 2250 Special Studies in Intermediate Dance Technique

A study of areas in intermediate dance technique not included in regularly scheduled courses. Examples of possible topics include: Jazz Skill Building, Repertory, Intermediate Tap, and Contact Improvisation. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 1 to 6 hours

DANC 2300 Modern Technique II

A development of modern technique at the intermediate level. Emphasis is on quick study skills and movement which has contrasting dynamic qualities, varying rhythmic patterns and spatial complexity. Students will continue in DANC 2300 until advanced to DANC 3300 by the instructor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 2450 Ballet History

A survey of the historical development of ballet. Course content includes: roots in 16th century European peasant and court dance forms; refinement and reform in the 17th and 18th centuries; romantic and classic periods in the 19th century; and trends of the 20th century, including modernism, neo-classicism and the influences of other dance forms. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and Dance major/minor only. 3 hours

DANC 2800 Choreographing for the New Millennium

A practical experience focusing on the choreographer's creative process for duet and group forms, and the application of technology to choreography. Emphasis will be placed on choreography for/with/of the camera, including commercial work, site specific study, telematic choreography, the software choreography program, *Life Forms*, and other new technologies that may develop. Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in DANC 1800 and DANC 1850. 3 hours

DANC 2850 Musical Style and Form for Dancers

The course surveys composers and musical style from the Renaissance through the twentieth century. There will be an emphasis on the chief stylistic characteristics of the major composers of each period, and discussion of the particular compositions in relation to their suitability for choreographic treatment. Score-reading is an important aspect of the course. Prerequisite: A grade of "C" or better in DANC 1850. 2 hours

DANC 2900 Dance in the Elementary School

This course covers the principles, materials, and techniques of teaching creative movement and dance activities to elementary school children as they can be applied in various learning environments. Lecture, observation, and laboratory experiences are provided. 3 hours

DANC 2950 Introduction to Dance Science and Kinesiology

An introduction to the field of dance science for dance majors. Emphasis is placed on anatomical analysis, conditioning principles and injury prevention, with special attention given to application of information to technique class, rehearsal, choreography and individual anomalies. This course, in combination with DANC 1960, meets the Area VIII Health and Well-being General Education requirement for dance majors. Restricted to dance majors and minors. 3 hours

DANC 2960 Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis®

An overview of the theoretical framework and language for describing movement which was developed by Rudolf von Laban. This course includes the history of the development of Laban Movement Analysis, motif writing, and discussion and practice of the theories of Effort, Space, Shape and their relationship to Bartenieff FundamentalsSM. 2 hours

DANC 3100 Ballet Technique III

Ballet technique for the advanced/pre-professional student. Emphasis is placed on complex and sophisticated movement sequences used to develop strength, flexibility, endurance, artistry and vocabulary at the advanced level. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 3200 Jazz Technique III

Jazz technique at the advanced/pre-professional level with work on quick-study and theatrical skill. Combinations will address a variety of jazz styles and develop the student's own dynamic style. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 3250 Special Studies in Dance Theory

A study of areas of dance theory not included in existing courses. Examples of possible topics include: writing and criticism; costuming; make-up; technology (e.g., audio and video techniques; computer applications for music, lighting design, notation or choreography); and dance for the exceptional student. May be offered with a visiting instructor or artist-in-residence. Repeatable for credit up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.
1 to 6 hours

DANC 3300 Modern Technique III

Technique for the advanced/pre-professional student in the modern idiom. Emphasis is placed on the ability to quickly analyze and skillfully reproduce complex movement combinations within the technique. Performance skills are emphasized throughout the course. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit.
Prerequisite: Advisor approval. 2 hours

DANC 3450 Twentieth Century American Dance

A survey of the purposes, functions, and manifestations of American dance from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. Relationships are examined between dance and general cultural developments in the United States in each decade of this century. Topics covered include: the forerunners and pioneers of modern dance; avant-garde and post-modernists; and artists of jazz, tap, Broadway, movies, and the current media. Students write several short papers and prepare a research paper. Examinations emphasize essay writing. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum.
Prerequisite: Junior standing and Dance major/minor only. 3 hours

DANC 3510 Dancer Wellness

An exploration of topics that will improve the quality of dance instruction in private dance studios by providing information and strategies for specific health concerns of a dancer including: nutrition for optimal energy intake, exercise components and energy expenditure, eating disorders, weight management, the female athlete triad, dance injury prevention and first aid. 3 hours

DANC 3520 Dance Studio Management

An introduction to the principles of dance studio management through the presentation of business philosophies, practical theories, and strategies crucial to managing a successful dance studio business. Topics may include: entrepreneurship, business entities & creating a business plan, studio location & facility considerations, marketing strategies for growing your business, and record keeping & basic financial statements.
3 hours

DANC 3530 Employee Client Relations

The practical application of theories to assist in the daily interactions between a dance studio owner/instructor and parents, students and staff. Topics include hiring practices, staff training, payroll and compensation, client retention, and communication with parents and students.
3 hours

DANC 3540 Recital Preparation/Production

An overview of topics related to dance studio recital preparation and production including: planning and organization, music selection and copyright issues, costume ordering and inventory, profitability, recital services and production.
3 hours

DANC 3550 Training Theories for Dancers

An exploration of physical training principles as they apply to children through adult dancers in a dance studio. Topics include anatomical considerations for dance; appropriate warm up, stretching, flexibility and endurance training; the importance of recovery and restoration; motor learning and progression; physiological development for pointe work, developing hip joint flexibility and turn out; and neuromuscular coordination for balance.

3 hours

DANC 3560 Curriculum Development - Dance

The practical application of theories in dance studio curriculum development for ages 3-adult. Specific attention will be given to the development of age-appropriate movement, physiological skill development, and logical progression of skill acquirement with pragmatic utilization in multiple dance styles.

3 hours

DANC 3800 The Choreographer in the Community

A practical experience focusing on the choreographer's creative process for advanced choreographic work. Emphasis includes writing descriptive statements for thesis and grant proposals for choreographic work, running auditions and rehearsals, developing leadership/collaborative styles and articulating artistic visions. Focus is on complex group forms and devices as well as development and structuring of sophisticated choreographic works. Prerequisite: A grade of "C" or better in DANC 2800.

3 hours

DANC 3890 Lighting and Staging for Dance

An introduction to dance production from a lighting and staging viewpoint. Course content includes: stage equipment and terminology; stage management; lighting instruments, distribution, and color, and lighting control. Students will have hands-on experience in producing dance concerts through crew assignments completed outside of class. The culminating assignment for the course is designing and executing lighting for a dance. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.

2 hours

DANC 4000 Practicum

An individual approach to a practical field experience in dance. The student must file an approved application for his/her project with the dance academic advisor prior to registration for the course. Through reading and practice, the student will have an opportunity to explore a topic of interest in dance. Repeatable for credit up to 4 hours. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.

1 to 4 hours

DANC 4100 Supplemental Ballet Technique

Advanced ballet technique for the upper level dance major or minor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Junior standing and advisor approval.

1 hour

DANC 4200 Supplemental Jazz Technique

Advanced jazz technique for the upper level dance major or minor. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Junior standing and advisor approval.

1 hour

DANC 4250 Advanced Technique

A study of areas in advanced dance technique not included in regularly scheduled courses. Examples of possible topics include: Pointe and Variation, Partnering, Advanced Tap, and Senior Technique. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.
1 to 6 hours

DANC 4300 Supplemental Modern Technique

Advanced modern technique for the upper level dance major. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Junior standing and advisor approval.
1 hour.

DANC 4400 Teaching Dance Technique

This course is designed to develop the skills to teach introductory ballet, jazz and modern dance techniques to children and adults in both academic and private studio environments. Topics will include developing creative teaching skills, methods of class preparation, ways of communicating and correcting, preparing age-appropriate material, choosing music, use of imagery and issues of body image for dance students. Prerequisite: dance major only and junior standing.
2 hours

DANC 4450 Senior Seminar

An exploration of current trends, literature and developments in dance in a seminar format. Students will discuss, compare and analyze ideas generated by assigned readings. Restricted to dance majors.
Prerequisite: Senior standing. 1 hours

DANC 4600 Performance

An experience in guest artist or faculty choreographed dance works, in fully produced projects not encompassed in specific courses. Registration concurrent with semester of performance. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Advisor approval.
1 to 6 hours

DANC 4650 Dance Ensemble

An experience in a performing ensemble which provides one or more of the following: master classes, residencies, lecture-demonstrations, and concerts in various dance styles in the region. Members must show proficiency in performance, improvisation, teaching, and public speaking. Members must concurrently enroll in at least one technique course at the 2000- or 3000- level as specified by the ensemble director. The content of this course varies each semester. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: Dance majors and minors only, sophomore standing, and audition.
1 to 3 hours

DANC 4700 Senior Capstone Project

A seminar course in which each student completes a Senior Capstone Project that integrates curricular content with the student's career objectives. Students will meet weekly to discuss and present topics related to the preparation of the Senior Capstone Project. Each student will have his/her project evaluated by the course instructor and another member of the faculty. Prerequisites: Senior standing; BA dance major.
2 hours

DANC 4800 Graduating Presentation

The preparation and presentation of an advanced choreographic project accompanied by a portfolio and an oral examination. Prior to registration the student must complete an application, select a faculty advisory committee, and secure the faculty committee's approval. Course guidelines are available from the Department and should be reviewed by the student at least one semester prior to enrollment. Prerequisite: A grade of "C" or better in DANC 3800 and advisor approval.

3 hours

DANC 4890 Dance Management

An introduction to the basic areas of arts management as they relate to dance organizations and independent dance artists. Topics include budgeting, project management, publicity and promotion, fundraising, grant writing, and legal issues. Practical application of these principles will be evaluated wherever possible. Prerequisite: College of Fine Arts only and Sophomore standing.

2 hours

DANC 4950 Music Theatre Performance Workshop II

Students will perform a variety of roles and styles from a broad spectrum of music theatre repertoire. Scenes will be performed before a public or invited audience. Performers will be directed and evaluated by a faculty team from Dance, Music and Theatre. Prerequisite: MUS 2950.

3 hours

DANC 4960 Performance in Music Theatre

Students will perform in music theatre productions both on and off WMU campus. Their performance will be evaluated by a team of evaluators, to include at least two WMU faculty/staff and/or two full-time professional staff members of the producing theatre. Music Theatre majors (MTFJ) only.

2 hours

DANC 4990 Non-Reading Independent Study in Dance

Advanced undergraduate students with good academic standing may elect to independently pursue the study of some area of dance through the creative process. Topics are chosen and arrangements are made to suit the needs of each particular student. Repeatable for credit up to 4 hours.
Prerequisite: Advisor approval; Dance Majors only.

1 to 4 hours