CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
THEA 1401:01 MODERN DANCE 1A
PEAC 1401:01

Semester/Year: FALL 2015

Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 3 Credit Hours: 1 CR

Class Time: T/TH 3:30-5pm Room: KT 159-Studio A

Instructor’s Name: Jodi Youmans-Jones

Instructor’s Office #: KT 156 Phone #: 268-2690
Email: jjones@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: M 12-13pm, W 2-3pm, Th 12:30-1:30pm (Appointment is suggested)

Course Description: This course will be an introduction to the principles and techniques of Modern Dance. Dancers will focus on technique, terminology and the execution of the basic steps, as well as the discovery of movement in space and time.

*The study of dance often required physical contact, either teacher-to-student (in terms of physical alignment and muscle use) or student-to-student (in course of improvisation, partnering, or ensemble work). If you have any concern or reservations about the appropriateness of physical contact, please talk to the instructor immediately.

Statement of Prerequisites: None

Goal:
1) To introduce the student to elementary principles and techniques in Modern Dance.
2) To develop the ability to perform basic movement patterns, qualities of movement and musical analysis as it relates to Modern Dance.
3) To develop muscular coordination, agility and kinesthetic sense at an elementary level of difficulty.
4) To gain an understanding and appreciation of Modern Dance as a disciplined art form.
5) To develop a self-awareness through physical activity and introduction to contemporary art forms.
6) To prepare students for Modern I.

Outcomes:
A. Technical:
   1. A self-choreographed mid-term technical demonstration based on curriculum (24-36 measures)
   2. A self-choreographed final technical demonstration based on the curriculum
36-48 measures)
3. Successful demonstration of modern technique and choreography exams at both Midterms and Finals.

B. Academic:
1. Reading assignments: The Dancer Prepares: Modern Dance for beginners
2. Class discussions that culminate in an exam.
3. A basic vocabulary of Modern Dance.
4. One review on a Modern dance performance (2-3 pages). (MLA Format)
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities

Methodology: This is a hands-on type of class.

Class Organization: Classes will adhere to the following format:
1. Warm-up (floor, strength work, and standing)
2. Locomotor Movements
3. Introduction to elements of music; incorporation into class material
4. Development of movement sequences for evaluation
5. Introduction to improvisation and manipulation of movement phrases

Basic Technique:
1. Warm-up:
   a. Floor (incorporating above alignment concepts)
   b. Pilates exercises for strength and flexibility (level 1)
   c. Alignment-Balance-Stretching (lying, sitting standing)

2. Locomotor Movements:
   a. 8 basic steps (walk, run, leap, hop, jump, slide, gallop, and skip)
   b. Variations and combined sequences of steps

3. Qualities of Movement:
   a. Space
   b. Level
   c. Direction
   d. Energy/Force
   e. Introduction to Improvisation

4. Introduction to Basic Music Analysis
   a. Basic meters
      1. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
      2. Triplets

Choreography/Movement Phrase
1. The student will learn how to recall longer combinations/choreography and be tested on their abilities through performance.
2. Through improvisational assignments the student will begin to learn how to choreograph and will create two short phrases for evaluation.

**Evaluation Criteria:** You will be evaluated based on your own progress in the class and your assigned work.

- **Terminology Exams (2)** 100 pts. (Midterm and Final) 50 pts. each
- **Book Assignment** 50 pts.
- **Performance Review (1)** 50 pts. MLA Format required
- **Technical Exams (2)** 200 pts. (Midterm and Final) 100 pts. each
- **Choreography Exams (2)** 150 pts. (Midterm 50 pts., Final 100 pts.)
- **Solo presentation (2)** 150 pts. (Midterm 50 pts., Final 100 pts.)
- **Daily Participation** 200 pts. (Midterm and Final) 100 pts. each
- **Attendance** 200 pts. (Midterm and Final) 100 pts. each

- You are allowed one absence without affecting your grade. With each absence following the one, you will lose 5% of your attendance grade. Tardies of leaving class early will also result in an absence and a loss of 5% of your attendance grade. Please note that there is no such thing as an excused absence at Casper College. Absences for any reason will be recorded.
- Your technical grades including taught choreography will be based off of the following rubric.

**Modern I Rubric**

- Skills are performed with intention, correct placement/alignment, good spatial awareness, execution of correct rhythm, and above average improvement. 9-10 points

- Skills are performed with intention, good placement/alignment, average spatial awareness, average rhythm and good improvement. 8-9 points

- Skills are completed but somewhat unsure, placement/alignment is attempted but inconsistent, spatial awareness is attempted, rhythm is inconsistent and average improvement. 7 points

- Skills are unsure and questioned, placement/alignment is unclear, spatial awareness is unclear, rhythm is inconsistent, no visual improvement. 5-6 points

- Skills are incomplete efforts toward placement/alignment; rhythm and spatial awareness are questionable. 1-4 points

**Grading Scale**

90- 100% = A
80 - 89% = B
Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Penrod and Plastino The Dancer Prepares: Modern Dance for Beginners, and personal water bottle.

Reviews must use MLA.
See Refworks@www.caspercollege.edu/library/index.html for questions and help.

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade: The Final Date for Withdrawal from the course or to change to Audit will be those posted in the Official Semester Schedule. This is usually the first Friday following Midterm Break. This date will be strictly followed.

Class Policies:
A. Clothing
   1. Bare feet and form fitting clothes required-leotards, capris and/or tights for women, shirts and shorts, tights, or capris for men.
   2. Dance belts are required for men and sports bras or needed support for women are required as needed.
   3. No necklaces, chokers, dangle earrings, bracelets or loud prints in clothing.
   4. Hair must be pulled off face and off neck during class. Pony tails and braids are not suggested if hair is very long.
   5. All black or monochromatic clothing is required on technical testing days.

B. Classroom Etiquette:
   1. No gum or candy in class. Throat lozenges are acceptable with notification.
   2. If you are 15 minutes late or more for class you need to observe the class.
   3. Anytime you are observing class, you need to take specific notes on combinations and corrections if you want partial credit for that class period.
   4. No cell phones in the ‘on’ mode are permitted. If your cell phone goes off in class you will lose participation points.
   5. Please be courteous to all other dancers, instructors or observers. Learn from as many sources possible, this includes one another.
   6. No hats or beanies in class. Doo rags are accepted.
   7. Applause at the end of class is appropriate to show appreciation for fellow students, the art form, and the instructor
   8. If you have to leave class, please check with the instructor first.
   9. Please have a personal water bottle for class so as the need to leave class will be minimized.

A. Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.
B. **Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

C. **Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

D. **Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student’s assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

E. **ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344 (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Schedule for class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug  25</td>
<td>Class starts/Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug  27</td>
<td>Dress for class</td>
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<td>Sept  17</td>
<td>Video for Review</td>
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<td>Sept  22</td>
<td>Review Due (50 pts.)</td>
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<td>Sept  29</td>
<td>Book Assignment Due (50 pts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct   8</td>
<td>Midterm Technical (100 pts) &amp; Monochromatic Dress</td>
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<td>Oct   13</td>
<td>Terminology Midterm (50 pts.) &amp; Solo presentation (50 pts.)</td>
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<td>Oct   15</td>
<td>Choreography Exam (50 pts) &amp; Solo presentation (50 pts.)</td>
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<td><strong>Oct  17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall Break</strong></td>
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<td>Nov   19</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Nov 25-29</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec    8</td>
<td>Vocabulary Exam (50 pts)</td>
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<td>Dec    10</td>
<td>Technical Final (100 pts.) &amp; Choreography Final exam (100 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec   14-17</td>
<td>Solo presentation (100 pts)</td>
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**Dec 15,16** **SEASONAL SHOWING 7:30 PM**