CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
THEA 1430:02 MODERN DANCE I/1
PEAC 1430-02

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

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

Class Time: 5:00-6:30 Days: M, W Room: KT 157

Instructor’s Name: KELLEEN GILSTAD

Instructor’s Office #:KT 156 Phone: 268-2690-Jodi’s

Office Hours: By appointment only!

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. (Cross listed with PEAC 1430)

*The study of dance often requires physical contact, either teacher-to-teacher (in terms of physical alignment & muscle use) or student-to-student (in the 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.

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals:
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. To prepare the student for Modern Dance I/II
4) To gain an understanding and appreciation of Modern Dance as a disciplined art form.
5) To develop self-awareness through physical activity and introduction to contemporary art forms.

Outcomes:
A. Technical:
   1. A mid term technical demonstration based on curriculum (24-36 measures)
   2. A final technical demonstration based on the curriculum (36-48 measures)
   3. The final exam will include an improvisation/manipulation study
B. Academic:
   1. Reading assignments: The Dancer Prepares: Modern Dance for beginners
   2. Class discussions
   3. Video observation of Historical Modern Dance
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:
Alignment-Balance-Stretching (lying, sitting standing)
Warm-up:
1. Floor (incorporating above alignment concepts)
2. Pilates exercises for strength and flexibility (level 1)

Locomotor Movements:
1. 8 basic steps (walk, run, leap, hop, jump, slide, gallop, and skip)
2. Variations and combined sequences of steps

Qualities of Movement:
1. Space
2. Level
3. Direction
4. Energy/Force
5. Introduction to Improvisation

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

Evaluation Criteria: You will be evaluated based on your own progress in the class and your assigned work.
1. Attendance:
   Your goal is perfect attendance. Missed dance classes are impossible to make up, so any absence is discouraged. Because attendance is so important, it will be a major part of your grade for this class. I recognize that many of you are heavily committed to departmental productions and I will always try to take this into account, however, students cannot assume that production commitments take precedence over academic assignments. Absence from two classes is permitted without penalty. Classes missed beyond this point will result in a 3% reduction (per class missed) in your final grade. Tardies will result in a loss of 1/2 of a class period. (Please note that there is no such thing as an excused absence at Casper College. Absences for any reason will be recorded).

2. Clothing
   1. Bare feet and form fitting clothes required-leotards and tights for women, plus shirts and shorts or tights for men.
   2. Dance belts are required for men and sports bras or needed support for women as needed.
   3. No necklaces, chokers, dangle earrings, bracelets or loud prints in clothing.
3. Class Rules:
   1. No gum or candy in class. Throat lozenges are acceptable w/notification.
   2. If you are more than 15 minutes late 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.
   5. Please be courteous to all other dancers, instructors or observers. Learn from as many sources possible, this includes one another.
   6. Hair needs to be off the face and neck for class.
   7. If you have to leave class, please check with the instructor first.
   8. Please have a personal water bottle for class so as the need to leave class will be minimized.
   9. Applause at the end of class is appropriate to show appreciation for fellow students, the art form, and the instructor

**Grading:**

- Technical demos, improvisations = 55%
- Book assignment = 15%
- Class participation = 20%
- Written Exam = 10%

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100%  A
- 80-89%   B
- 70-79%   C
- 60-69%   D
- 50-59%   F

**Required Text, Readings, Materials:** Penrod and Plastino *The Dancer Prepares: Modern Dance for Beginners.*

**Last Date to 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.

**STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

B. It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see the instructor at your earliest convenience.

C. 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 your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

D. 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.
**Calendar or Schedule indicating course content:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Class starts/Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Dress for class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Clothing order due by 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>LABOR DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Mid-term Technical and Performance demonstration due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 23-24</td>
<td>FALL BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Book Assignment due</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>History Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 22-26</strong></td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 11 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Technical Demonstration due and Improvisational Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dec. 11 &amp; 13</strong></td>
<td>Final Performance due</td>
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* Two lecture classes will be scheduled.