TITLE: DANCE COMPOSITION II

PREREQUISITE: THE 125 or instructor permission

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Continued development of theoretical concepts and advanced approaches to choreography emphasizing choreographic form, individual style, works of substance and maturity.

TEXT REQUIRED:

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To further one’s experiences and perceptions of dance composition, with an emphasis on application of more advanced choreographic theories and techniques.
2. To demonstrate a clear understanding of the basic compositional elements of dance (time, energy, space, shape), and how they are utilized in the development of new movement phrases, compositional structures, and completed compositions.
3. To continue the use of improvisational experimentation as a critical tool in the development of movement patterns and sequences.
4. To continue to sharpen one’s problem solving skills in group settings, and to make successful physical and aesthetic decisions about the composition of dance.
5. To create choreography in an efficient and swift manner.
6. To develop strong verbal communication skills when discussing various artistic works, with both the performers/dancers and the audience/class.
7. To continue to gain confidence in one’s personal movement choices while exploring the process and craft of choreography.
8. To further one’s ability to analyze, evaluate, and articulate their feelings about choreography, while developing a critical eye for structure and intent.
9. To approach new ideas and material with an inspired imagination, a sense of discovery and an open mind.
10. To enhance one’s own choreographic work through the receiving of personal feedback, practice of journaling, and viewing/discussing other’s creative endeavors within the classroom.
11. To consistently challenge one’s ideas about movement while being open and aware of the views and opinions of others’.

COURSE CONTENT/OUTLINE:
Composition II is the third level of choreographic study within the Dance Performance sequence. This course will build upon the ideas and techniques presented in Composition I (THE125), with an emphasis toward a more advanced approach to investigation and exploration of these concepts. Class sessions will be structured with a combination of improvisational exercises, lecture sessions, lab/exploration time, “showings” of completed choreographic projects, and peer directed feedback. Through the use of these mentioned strategies, student will be expected to explore advanced problem solving techniques and build upon their current basic foundation of dance composition. Evaluation of student choreography and the choreographic process is subjective in nature (as in all art
forms), yet vital to one’s development as a choreographer. Analysis of others work using critical evaluation methods studied in class, and drawing upon the experience and expertise of others, will be important to further one’s knowledge about the field of dance choreography. Feedback sessions are conducted in an open-forum structure in order to analyze class projects. Participation in these sessions will be a critical factor in determining each student’s final grade. This course will emphasize both the process and the product throughout the semester and will also be reflected in the evaluation of each students work. Most importantly, experimentation is the ultimate goal for the semester. Students’ will be encouraged to expand their creative potential and find inventive ways to further their choreographic experience.

I. Explorations/Choreographic Studies
   A. Time/Rhythmic awareness/stillness
   B. Energy/Force/Dynamics/Movement Qualities
   C. Movement invention
   D. Form/Compositional Structure vs. Choreographic Devices
   E. Effective use of space and one’s environment
   F. Gesture/Abstraction
   G. Effective communication of ideas (dancers and choreography)
   H. Musical selection/accompaniment (words, vocals, sounds, and silence)
   I. Group Awareness – Design/Partnering/Staging
   J. Written supplement/journaling
   K. Self evaluation
   L. Application of class material/completion of the assigned project

II. Journal
   A. Completeness (see journal criteria on website)
   B. Content and substance (minimum vs. excellent)
   C. Organization
   D. Neatness/Readability
   E. Overall effort

III. Written Assignments
   A. Critical evaluations-Self and Peer
   B. Discussion points, forum questions, and responses
   C. Writings on assigned readings (articles)
   D. Quizzes (only if applicable)

IV. Written Exam
   A. Comprehensive evaluation of class material from text and lecture
      1) Vocabulary
      2) Theories/Concepts
      3) Exercises/Studies
      4) Text readings
      5) Handouts/reviews

EVALUATION AND STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

400pts  Choreographic Studies/Projects- (dates subject to change with advance notice). Each Project is worth 100 points.
   Study #1- Week of January 25
   Study #2- Week of February 22
   Study #3- Week of March 24
   Study #4- Week of April 14

200 pts. Final Composition/Collaboration with Designer – Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 (finals week- sign-up for individual showing times on April 13)-Individual meetings with collaborative designers will be scheduled and decided by each individual pairing.
150 pts. Journal/Resources – Completed binder due Wednesday, April 28 (subject to “check-ups” throughout the semester).

100 Written Assignments– Consistent weekly assignments between January 11 & April 28. All will be assigned during class sessions and included within your journal.

100 Comprehensive Written Exam – Wednesday, April 21

50 Evaluations – Self/Peer/Professional – 5 assigned throughout the semester at 10 points each. All evaluations should be included in your journal.

1000 Total Points

Additional Note: Physical attendance and full participation in discussions and explorations will be expected. Establishing a positive and professional environment for oneself and others will be encouraged during all class sessions. Individual conferences with the instructor are highly encouraged to receive additional feedback on choreographic studies/projects, and to receive feedback on daily classroom work.

GRADING SCALE:
A = 100-90% - Excellent, Exemplary;  B = 89-80% - Good, Above Average;  C = 79-70% - Average Work
D = 69-60% - Below Average Work, Needs Improvement;  F = 59-0% - Fails to meet course requirements (partial/ or full)

Choreographic Studies/Projects – Students will create and direct selected dancers in four separate compositional assignments throughout the semester. Each student/choreographer will be responsible for generating new movement material, revising choreographic elements during the creative process, and rehearsing the performers. The individual studies have specific guidelines (provided in class and available at the class website) and are created to assist each choreographer in expanding their understanding of the choreographic process. Students will be given limited class-time to work on these studies, with the remainder of the process being considered “homework”. Evaluation criteria for each of the projects can be accessed via a link on the course home-page.

Final Composition/Collaboration with Designer- Each choreographer will create a final completed composition that will be performed during finals week in CE 116. This work will be in collaboration with a student enrolled in THE 261-Lighting for Stage. Students from both classes will be paired together and work to create a product that has full production consideration including costumes and lights. This will be a completed piece (minimum of 4 minutes), and should clearly demonstrate the students learning from THE 325 and 125. Detailed guidelines for this Final Composition will be provided at mid-semester to give students ample time for rehearsal, collaboration, and preparation.

Journal/Resources – Students are responsible for the creation of a journal/resource binder using information from class sessions, various written assignments, and individual research for its completion. All coursework (including handouts or information from the course website) should be included in this binder (students may choose to continue their binders from THE 125-be clear where THE 325 information begins). Journals are subject to unannounced “check-ups” throughout the semester.

Written Assignments- Students will be given weekly written assignments throughout the semester that cover a range of topics and learning points. Choreographic supplements, reviews of student work, and responses to forum questions or handouts from class will all be included within the content of the course. Assignments will be given during class sessions and will be included as part of your journal/resource binder.

Comprehensive Written Exam – Students will be given one examination covering all course material presented throughout the semester. Questions are based off of vocabulary, theories/concepts covered in class, exercises performed during class sessions, text readings, lectures, videos (if applicable), and any handouts provided.

Evaluations- Students will be given 5 evaluation assignments throughout the semester that will come in the following forms: Self Evaluations, Peer Evaluations, or reviews of professional work. These assignments are intended to encourage reflection on the craft of choreography, while improving one’s skill in opinion based-writing.
ATTENDANCE:

Consistent attendance is necessary to complete the course in a successful manner. **Excused absences** will only be allowed for a University sanctioned activity providing a note from the sponsoring organization is presented to the professor one week prior to the event (excusing an absence is ultimately at the discretion of the instructor). Please speak with the instructor if you will be absent due to a death in the family, religious holiday, or serious injury (a doctor’s appointment will not be considered an excused absence). **Communication with the professor concerning attendance will be the responsibility of the student.** Class will start promptly at 3:10 PM. If you arrive over 5 minutes late or leave class early, this will be considered an incomplete class (absence). If you are too ill to actively participate, an absence will be taken. **Observations and make-up classes will not be allowed for this course.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Please turn all cellular devices off during class sessions. Be respectful of your teacher and fellow classmates. Please speak with your instructor if you have questions concerning this request.
- No grades will be distributed via e-mail during the course of the semester (even at the request/permission of the student). Every effort to present grades in a timely and appropriate manner will be made.
- Students will be responsible to consistently check the instructor’s website for new information, schedule changes, etc. You will find this information at [http://www.ilstu.edu/~ssemoni/](http://www.ilstu.edu/~ssemoni/). Go to Teaching Page and THE 325 link.
- Attire – Wear clothing that is appropriate, professional and conducive to dancing. If you have a question about proper attire, please speak with the instructor.
- Be aware of all rules pertaining to use of the dance studio (CE 116). Rules are posted on both doors for your convenience.
- Dancers must use dressing areas and restroom facilities located on the second floor (CE 214). Rules for use of dressing rooms are posted on the doors.
- Do not leave valuable belongings inside the studio or dressing rooms! Leave shoes on rugs, and place bags, etc. on the shelves provided within the studio. No outside shoes allowed on the dance floor!

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Illinois State University is an institution concerned with helping all of our students feel welcome, and with helping all students learn and develop to their full potential. To help meet these goals, any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Disability Concerns at 350 Fell Hall, 438-5853 (voice), 438-8620 (TDD).

EXPLORE, CREATE, EXPLORE, CREATE…LET’S HAVE A WONDERFUL SEMESTER!

(ALL INFORMATION ON THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH ADVANCE NOTICE.)