TITLE: SENIOR SEMINAR IN DANCE

PREREQUISITE: Senior standing or consent of instructor required.

REQUIRED TEXTS – Texts/Handouts/Readings will be provided as necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to provide students with a formalized approach to embarking upon their future endeavors post graduation through preparing them for auditioning, résumé construction, grant writing, choreographic/performance portfolios, related career options, interviewing, and graduate school requirements. The course will enable students to create an individualized plan for professional goals in the field of dance. In this course the student will research specific career goals, develop short and long term professional goals, and learn to market their acquired skills while also seeking additional training and opportunities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Through successful completion of THE 382, students have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge, skills and competencies in the following areas:

1. Organization and development of both short term and long term professional goals.
2. Development of specific elements to achieve professional goals within given frameworks.
3. Research a variety of career options and additional training.
4. Create professional résumé/vitae for the job market.
5. Fund-raising techniques, including effectiveness in grant writing.
6. Research of Graduate School options and viability.
7. Facilitate and conduct audition for large ensemble work cast.
8. Create exit portfolio of professional goals.
9. Understanding of the audition process for the professional dancer.

COURSE CONTENT/OUTLINE
*The following lists are representative. Not all topics will be discussed, and will be gauged on the needs of the individual students enrolled in the course.

I. CAREER OPTIONS FOR THE DANCER
   a. Concert Performer
   b. Entertainment Performer
   c. Audition Notices
   d. Choreographic Opportunities
   e. Dance Therapy
   f. Physical Therapy
   g. Massage Therapy
   h. Certification Programs
   i. Teaching
   j. Arts Management
II. GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
   a. MA/MFA Programs
   b. Standard Admission Requirements
   c. Standard Audition Requirements
   d. Teaching Assistantships
   e. Scholarships/Fellowships/Other Aid

III. MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR THE DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER
   a. Resumé/Vitae
   b. Head Shot/Performance Shot
   c. Press Release
   d. Video Portfolio of Creative Work
   e. Letters of Recommendation
   f. Self-Promotion
   g. Networking

IV. SELF-PRODUCING
   a. Grant Seeking and Writing
   b. Performance Venues
   c. Hiring Dancers
   d. Making Ends Meet

V. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL GOALS
   a. Short term plan
   b. Long term plan
   c. Future vision and aspirations

REQUIRED STUDENT TASKS AND EVALUATION:
(* Assigned dates provided in class)
   15% - Resume/Vitae Project
   15% - Individualized Plan for Professional Goals
   20% - Research Paper
   20% - Self-Producing Exercise
   30% - Exit Portfolio

GRADING SCALE:
100-90%=A; 89-80%=B; 79-70%=C; 69-60%=D; 59-0%=F

Consistent Classroom Participation
Each student is expected to arrive promptly, and participate in all classroom discussions and experiences consistently from class to class. Each student is expected to be self-motivated, disciplined, and thorough in the timely preparation of outside class projects and research. Consistent attendance and professional decorum is essential. Classroom experiences are of the nature that they cannot be replicated or “made-up” outside of class.

Resumé/Vitae with Headshot
Each student will construct a professional resumé related to specific post graduation plans. Criteria for evaluation include accuracy, professional presentation, format, and effectiveness.

Individualized Plan for Professional Goals in the Field
Each student will research and create their short and long term goals upon graduation. Students will design both a short and long term activity plan following graduation which may include, yet is not limited to, change of location, living arrangements, job search, auditioning, certification programs, graduate schools, self-producing work, professional training and scholarship opportunities. Students will receive peer reviews of their plans prior to final evaluation.
Research Paper on Related Career
Each student will thoroughly research a career outside of a performance career to learn more about the work in that related field, the job market, additional educational requirements, related costs, benefits, and viability.

Self-Producing Exercise
Each student will learn about the opportunities and responsibilities of self-producing dancers and choreographers through the completion of a “mock” grant and press-packet. This exercise should be well thought-out, professional in quality, and creative.

Exit Portfolio
Each student is responsible for compiling a variety of materials together in a Final Exit Portfolio. The Exit Portfolio will be tailored to each student’s post graduation activity plan and individualized to meet those specific goals. While each student will need to include their finished resumé/vitae and Individualized Plan for Professional Goals in the Field, their Portfolio will also include auditioning information, a performance video, a choreographic video, photographs, letters of recommendation, graduate school information, list of interesting companies, creation of a webpage, and list of alumni/colleague contacts. Additional information may be included in the exit portfolio and will be tailored to each students specific needs.

Selected Readings
Each student will be provided with a variety of select readings or web based resources related to the job market to add to their research materials.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION:
Mandatory! Excused absences will only be allowed for a University sanctioned activity providing a note from the sponsoring organization is presented to the professor two weeks 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 3:15 pm.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- Please turn off all cellular devices during class sessions. Be respectful of your teacher and fellow classmates.
- 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 reasonable and timely 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/ beginning the second week of classes. Go to the Teaching Page and THE 382 link.

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).

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