TITLE: JAZZ DANCE III

PREREQUISITE: Placement by audition or promotion req. Cons inst req. May be repeated; max 6 hrs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Advanced level jazz technique and performance course that concentrates on skills and concepts vital to the developing professional dancer.

TEXT REQUIRED: No Text – Handouts/Materials provided as needed.

COURSE OVERVIEW:
This advanced level course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation for advanced study beyond the university level. Emphasis will be placed on increasing one’s movement vocabulary, increasing one’s coordination, strength and flexibility, improving on advanced jumps and turns, applying complicated rhythmic phrasing, and demonstrating stylistic versatility. Intellectual, technical, and artistic development will be emphasized in all course exercises and materials. The student will also have the opportunity to experience jazz from a musical and choreographic perspective by attendance at live performances and/or viewing videotaped works in the jazz idiom. Developing a well-founded aesthetic point of view will be the goal.

Realizing the Democratic Ideal:
The teacher education component within the School of Theatre at Illinois State University is committed to preparing future educators who promote a high level of competence and integrity in practicing their profession. Graduates will contribute to the realization of the democratic ideal by providing excellence in education thus enhancing the quality of life potential for all learners. This technique course contributes fundamentally to the mission realizing the democratic ideal through attention to a deeper understanding of the knowledge of the content of dance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Through successful completion of THE 319, students have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge, skills and competencies in the following areas:

1. Rapid learning of complex movement sequences such as those utilized in a professional situation, while continuing a strong focus on proper execution and artistic detail.
2. Advanced turn and jump sequences incorporating several combined movement’s utilizing an eclectic vocabulary.
3. Artistic expression in movement phrases that clearly defines the quality, dynamics, details, emotion, and style of the movement.
4. Musculo-skeletal alignment and posture as applied to jazz dance vocabulary and one’s dance training.
5. Complex rhythmic patterns used in both the upper and lower body.
6. Continued improvement of one’s concentration, flexibility, strength, and balance, using the ideas/theories presented in class.
7. Strong focus and commitment to the training within each class session.
8. Increased critical facilities and perceptions through observation, discussion, and written evaluation.
9. Heightened awareness of new directions within the jazz dance idiom; becoming familiar with the eclectic and ever changing nature and style of contemporary jazz dance.

COURSE CONTENT/OUTLINE:
I) DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SKILLS
   a. Advanced jump and turn combinations
   b. Advanced ability to acquire and retain movement material
   c. Increased development of line and overall body awareness
   d. Increased spatial awareness
   e. Continued development of coordination and rhythmic accuracy
   f. Development of qualitative aspects and personal expression
   g. Increased extensions, strength, and balance

II) OBSERVATION SKILLS AND ANALYSIS
   a. Determination of aesthetic criteria for analysis of jazz dance
   b. Application of criteria to observation
   c. Development of the critical eye in dance
   d. Viewing of live and videotaped performances
   e. Written review/analysis from performances

REQUIRED STUDENT TASKS AND EVALUATION:
200 pts. Classroom Work and Participation (see below)-evaluation provided at midterm and final
100 Performance/Skill Tests (see below) - 50 points each
   Midterm, March 4 & Final, April 29
100 Jazz Experiences-Reflection Paper (see below) – Due one week after performance.
100 Written Dance Review (live dance performance)- Guidelines provided in class. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED-Due one week after performance.

500 points total

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

**Consistent Classroom Work and Participation**
Each student is expected to dress appropriately for jazz dance class, arrive promptly, and participate fully in all movement experiences, on a consistent basis. Technical progress and artistic development depends upon the regular practice and training and effort of each individual student. Intelligent use of alignment principles, safe warm-up practices, strength training exercises and movement phrases leading to the increased technical and expressive capacity of the dance student are imperative to successful development. Professional classroom decorum is emphasized in this advanced level course to prepare students for future professional experiences.

**Performance/Skill Tests**
Two skill tests will be given within the semester; one at midterm and the second at the semester’s end. Each student is expected to learn, retain, refine, and perform short movement sequences prepared by the instructor to display specific technical and/or artistic skills developed over the course of the semester. Each test is worth 50 points. (100 total). Skills tests may only be made up due to extreme illness or death in the family. All make-ups must be completed within one week of the test date. Students are responsible for the movement material covered during any absence from class.
Jazz Experiences-Reflection Paper
Each student is responsible for attending one musical event (Genre of Jazz) as listed in the School of Music’s spring brochure. Several options will be available to accommodate each student’s schedule. A written reflection paper addressing one’s listening experience and how that integrates into a dancer’s training in jazz will be due one week after the performance. Additional details will be discussed in class.

Written Dance Review Paper
Each student will be responsible for writing a paper no less than three full pages in length that reviews and analyzes a live dance performance. The paper will address specifics about the choreography, genre of dance, use of space, use of dynamics and rhythm, use of movement vocabulary, and the overall impressions that the work provides to the viewer. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED! Additional details will be discussed in class.

Selected Readings
Each student will be responsible for any readings and handouts containing information regarding the aesthetic principles of jazz dance provided throughout the semester. In addition, each student will be responsible for consistently checking the course website for class updates and specific assignments (www.ilstu.edu/~ssemoni/).

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION:
Mandatory! Only two absences each semester are allowed before your grade is affected. In addition, the sixth absence will result in a failing grade for the course, as your daily classroom work and consistent development can no longer be accurately evaluated at this point. 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 1:30 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 will only be accepted under extreme circumstances and will not generally be allowed. Make-up classes are allowed, but will be considered on an individual basis, providing they are approved by the instructor of both classes. NO MAKE-UP CLASSES WILL BE ALLOWED THE FIRST TWO WEEKS AND THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF CLASSES. ALL MAKE-UP CLASSES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ORIGINAL ABSENCE to be valid. Approval of make-up classes is completely at the discretion of the professor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- Please turn off all cellular devices during class sessions. Be respectful of your teacher and fellow classmates.
- Be aware of all rules pertaining to the 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 doors for your convenience.
- Attire – Students should wear clothing that is conducive and appropriate to dance class (i.e. jumping, turning, floor work, sweating, looking professional, etc.). Speak with the instructor if you have questions regarding attire. Women – leotards (or tank tops), jazz pants or tights; Men – leotards/tank/tight shirt, jazz pants or tights. All dancers must wear jazz shoes for class sessions.
- Do not leave valuable belongings outside the studio door! Leave shoes outside, and place bags/clothing on the shelves provided within the studio. No street shoes allowed on the dance floor!
S. Semonis
THE 319
Spring 2010

- 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 THE 319 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).

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT SEMESTER OF JAZZ!

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