

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** DANC 391 **TITLE:** Dance Composition - Theory and Choreography
Semester Units/Hours: 3.0 units; a minimum of 48.0 lecture hours/semester
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or 848.
Prior dance experience or DANC 121.1, or DANC 130.1 or DANC 140.1

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Provides the student with basic skills and knowledge of the choreographic principles. Through discussion and practical experience, the students develop a basic understanding of dance as a performing art form. Study of basic dance choreography to include construction of a phrase, structure and form in a composition, and the basic elements of time, space and energy.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Choreograph dance phrases using choreographic techniques and the creative process.
2. Effectively critique and evaluate dance choreography.
3. Effectively articulate choreographic intent.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic elements of dance as they relate to choreography.
2. Create a movement phrase.
3. Demonstrate relationship of music compositional forms to choreography.
4. Compose a solo dance.
5. Analyze the effectiveness of choreography: time, space, rhythm, and energy
6. Compose a group dance.
7. Explain the relationship of movement to other theatrical elements such as music and costuming.
8. Explain how to use time, space, and dynamics to manipulate the vocabulary.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Exploring the Basic Elements of Dance: Time, Space, Energy.
2. Building a Movement Phrase: Beginning, Developing the material, End.
3. Music Compositional Forms Relating to Dance: Two part, Canon, Theme and Variation, Rhondo, Ground Base, Accumulative rhythm
4. Constructing a dance: solo and group.
5. Analyzing the Effectiveness of Choreography A Intent vs. outcome: clarity of statement and opportunity for improvement

Lab Content:

NA

TBA Hours Content:

NA

7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Activity
- C. Directed Study
- D. Critique
- E. Discussion

F. Observation and Demonstration

8. **REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Written analysis of dance choreographies/shows.

Reading Assignments:

Book readings and articles selected by the instructor. Reading assignments will be discussed in the class.

Other Outside Assignments:

A. Analysis/Critique of dance shows.

B. Analysis of movement motifs, music structure, spatial structure and/or dynamics of student's choreographic studies.

C. Creating a solo and group dances.

To be Arranged Assignments (if applicable):

Not applicable.

9. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

A. Class Participation

B. Class Performance

C. Class Work

D. Final Class Performance

E. Final Performance

F. Final Public Performance

G. Group Projects

H. Homework

I. Lab Activities

J. Papers

K. Projects

L. a) Final solo dance performed b) Final group dance composed by the student c) Written analysis of dance choreographies.

10. **REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

A. Anderson Sofras, Pamela. *Dance Composition Basics: Capturing the Choreographer's Craft*, ed. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 2006

B. Humphrey, Doris., Barbara Pollack and Stuyvesant Van Veen. *The Art of Making Dances*, ed. Princeton Book Company, 1991

C. Smith-Autard, Jacqueline M. . *Dance Composition: A Practical Guide to Creative Success in Dance Making (Performance Books)* , ed. Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2011

D. David Vaughan (Editor). *Merce Cunningham: Creative Elements: 4 (Choreography and Dance Studies Series)*, ed. Routledge, 2013

Origination Date: February 2013

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: November 2013

Effective Term: Fall 2014

Course Originator: Denaya Dailey