

Cedar Crest College
Spring 2009
Cultural Dynamics of Movement
DNC 236 002

Class Meeting Monday & Wednesday 8:00 – 9:15

Professor: Tabatha Robinson-Scott Ed.M.

Credits: 3.0

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Email: trobins@cedarcrest.edu

Course Description

Through this course, you will be introduced to the movement possibilities inspired by and driven by the dynamic cultures of the world. We will address the cultural foundations that exist in modern, ballet, jazz, tap and other contemporary dance styles. As a class, we will examine the influences of various cultures that continue to inspire and change the artistic world today. Through movement experiences, visual presentations, master classes and lectures, you will be able to determine the movement patterns of various cultures and how you can expand your personal movement vocabulary.

Course Objectives

Through this course, we hope to achieve cultural diversity of the dancing body. As a class, we will:

- ❖ Explore movement of different cultures as a way of communication and self-expression
- ❖ Learn about the social aesthetic patterns of the cultures through the art of dance
- ❖ Develop respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity in this art form
- ❖ Understand the historical contexts of the various dance form as they relate to the progression of the dance
- ❖ Research the cultural backgrounds of major figures in modern dance
- ❖ Develop strategies for understanding and critiquing movement
- ❖ Perform the basic elements of specific cultural dances
- ❖ Report on required readings, videos and experiences

Class Format

This class consists of two parts; class participation and lecture and movement

You will move in each class, so please come ready to move. You should bring clothes to change into for class that will not hinder your range of movement. Bare feet or dance shoes are acceptable. No street shoes are allowed in the studio. No food or drink is allowed in the studio. Water bottles (filled with water) are permitted. If you are injured or ill, you must consult with me prior to the start of class to determine what your observation assignment will be.

For class discussions and lecture, please bring all writing materials to take notes, journal and keep track of your notebook.

Notebooks and journals may be checked throughout the semester and graded based on organization and neatness.

There will be group projects and presentations in class. Students will be asked to present movement and information throughout the class.

Attendance, Lateness and Performance Policy

- ❖ **Attendance** – no more than 2 absences are permitted. Any missed classes beyond the first two will result in point deductions from your final grade unless with an excused note from the Dean or Health Services.
- ❖ **Lateness** – Please arrive early to your class to change or prepare for the class. After the 1st documented lateness, 1 point will be deducted from your final grade for each additional lateness.
- ❖ **Performance** – You are expected to fully participate in all classes to the best of your ability. All participants are expected to provide a supportive environment with positive feedback.
- ❖ **Observation Policy** – In the event you are ill or injured, you must consult with the instructor prior to the beginning of class. The 1st observation assignment will result in full participation credit. Each observation after that will result in ½ credit.

****Attendance is mandatory for all final dates of the class.***

Required / Recommended Texts

Moving History / Dancing Cultures: A Dance History Reader - Edited by Ann Dils & Ann Cooper Albright

History of Dance & Culture, Part Two – Compiled by Barbara Land

Homework & Written Assignments

Your name should appear on all assignments, quizzes and tests. For all papers and assignments, please include a cover page with your name, date the paper is due, course number and title. Your paper should then start the top of the paper. All papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12 font or smaller and one inch margins. If you do not follow the format, your grade will be affected. All research papers must include a bibliography with quoted or cited references. All work turned in must be the product of your own. Plagiarism is not acceptable. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a failing grade for that assignment. All assignments will be returned to you in a timely manner.

Evaluation

Your grade for this class will consist of the following components:

- ❖ Attendance and class participation
- ❖ Written homework and assignments
- ❖ Movement studies in class
- ❖ Mid-term assignment
- ❖ Video reviews
- ❖ Cultural paper – final

An assignment breakdown will be distributed the second week of class. This rubric will be followed strictly. A specific breakdown of the weight of the grades will be determined at a later date. You will receive a copy of the breakdown within the first third of the class. **No assignments will be accepted late without the expressed consideration from the professor!**