

Cedar Crest College
DNC 321
Dance 321 – Dance Composition II
Spring 2009

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Robin Gerchman ext. 3533
Office: Steinbright 1
Email: rmgerchm@cedarcrest.edu
Office Hours: After class
Meetings by appointment

Course Prerequisites: DNC 102, DNC 104, DNC 226 and DNC 320

Course Description:

This course is designed to further the student's knowledge of composition and nurture creative potential through the movement tools used to create and structure duo, trio and group dance. Material is presented in a lab environment with time provided to discuss concepts and explore approaches and elements that support the dance-making process. Students will create and perform specific choreographic assignments and actively participate in the critique process of other students' work. Exploring dance in its many forms, the student will uncover new ways of stimulating material for group choreography. This is an opportunity to work on clarity, focus and intent. Classes will center on the choreographer's individual movement style, the approach to structure, composition, and also on the importance of presentation and performance.

Course Objectives:

1. Explore processes of finding movement and identifying individual vocabulary
2. Develop partnering and group skills
3. Explore different choreographic styles
4. Investigate the context in which work is made

Outcome #1 Student will be able to view their choreography as a personal/expressive statement.
Assessment: Student will be asked to analyze and articulate their personal movement style and speak to the compositional choices they make.

Outcome #2 Student will be able to convey dance as an art form consisting of body, dynamics, motion, motivation, shape, time, and space.
Assessment: Students are graded weekly on their demonstrations of compositional studies

Outcome #3 Student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of construction, structure and form.
Assessment: Students are graded weekly on their oral analysis of the work presented

Grading:

Points

Composition Demonstration #1:	25
Writing assignment #1	15
Composition Demonstration #2:	25
Writing assignment #2	15
Composition Demonstration #3:	25
Writing assignment #3	15
Composition Demonstration #4:	25
Writing assignment #4	15
Final Showing*	40
	200 possible total points

A: 186-200 pts	A-: 171-185 pts	B+: 156-170 pts.	B: 136-155 pts.	B-: 121-135 pts.
C+: 106-120 pts.	C: 91-105 pts.	C-: 76-90 pts.	D+: 61-75 pts.	D: 46-60 pts.
D-:31-45 pts.	F: Below 31 pts.			

***Final Showing:** This is a trio composition designed by you that is a compilation of the assignments from the semester. The composition should be 3-5 minutes in length.

Evaluation:

Attendance – Any absence will only put you behind the work, much of which cannot be made up. Two absences are allowed; thereafter each absence will lower your FINAL grade by 3 pts per absence. After 4 consecutive absences you will be asked to withdrawal from the course.

Informed participation in class discussion and preparedness and Inventiveness/Creativity– You must maintain active participation and be prepared for each demonstration. Your role in this class is to practice and develop your skills as a choreographer. This is reflected not only in the physical demonstrations, but in the quantity and quality of engagement in discussions in each class. You are evaluated with a rating of Excellent, Good, Adequate or Poor. Excellence will not affect your grade. If you receive a Good rating, you will lose 2 points off of your final grade, 5 points for Adequate and 7 points for Poor.

Assessment Rubric: You will receive a copy of an assessment rubric evaluating each of your compositions.

Writing Assignments – Four writing assignments will be given during the semester. Any written assignment not turned in during the designated class will be lowered one letter grade for each day it is late. All assignments need to be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Student name, date, instructor name, course title and assignment topic as heading. E-mailed attached papers will not be accepted.

Final Presentation

The final presentation is a group composition (typically 3-5 minutes in length) that is designed by you. This is either a compilation of all of the informal demonstrations you presented in class, or further developing one particular demonstration. I would recommend using students that are not in this composition class.

Weekly Calendar for DNC 321 Spring 2009

Week 1	January 20 January 22	Introduction to Dance Composition II Movement conversations – trio work
Week 2	January 27 January 29	Muscle memory and music Sounds and Silences
Week 3	February 3 February 5	Music and Dance: A Collaborative effort LAB DAY: Composition #1: duet using unknown musical selection
Week 4	February 10 February 12	Composition Demonstration #1 Design for more than one body Process Journal Submission #1
Week 5	February 17 February 19	Formations Interweaving and varying patterns
Week 6	February 24 February 26	Body levels and direction LAB DAY: Composition #2: quintet exploring groupings and design
Week 7	March 3	Composition Demonstration #2
<i>No class March 5 - ACDF</i>		
<i>Spring Break March 9-13</i>		
Week 8	March 17 March 19	Canon Process Journal Submission #2 The choreographic theme
Week 9	March 24 March 26	Incorporating the spoken word LAB DAY: Composition #3: trio with selected theme
Week 10	March 31 April 2	Composition Demonstration #3 Preplanning musical theatre choreography Process Journal Submission #3
Week 11	April 7 April 9	Dancing with Props and incorporating small objects Selections: <i>Mary Poppins, Top Hat, Fiddler On The Roof, Hello Dolly!, Sweet Charity</i> The role of costumes and scenery Selections: <i>Hair. Bye Bye Birdie</i>
Week 12	April 14 April 16	LAB DAY: Composition #4: quartet using prop or small object Composition Demonstration #4
Week 13	April 21 April 23	Final showing preparation Process Journal Submission #4 Final showing preparation
Week 14	April 28 April 30	Final showing Final showing

Policies/Procedures – The following have been taken from the student Customs Book:

Honor Philosophy

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy states that students should uphold community standards for academic and social behavior in order to preserve a learning environment dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Upholding community standards is a matter of personal integrity and honor. Individuals who accept the honor of membership in the Cedar Crest College community of scholars pledge to accept responsibility for their actions in all academic and social situations and for the effect their actions may have on other members of the College community.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity and ethics remain steadfast, withstanding technological change. Cedar Crest College academic standards therefore apply to all academic work, including, but not limited to, handwritten or computer-generated documents, video or audio recordings, and telecommunications.

As a student at Cedar Crest College, each student shall:

- Only submit work which is his/her own
- Adhere to the rules of acknowledging outside sources, as defined by the instructor, never plagiarizing or misrepresenting intellectual property
- Neither seek nor receive aid from another student, converse with one another when inappropriate, nor use materials not authorized by the instructor.
- Follow the instructions of the professor in any academic situation or environment including taking of examinations, lab procedures, the preparation of papers, properly and respectfully using College facilities and resources, including library and computing resources to ensure that these resources may be effectively shared by all members of the College community.
- Abide by the Cedar Crest Computer Use Policy
- If a student perceives a violation of the Academic Standards, her/she will go to their instructor
- If you are unable to resolve the problem with the instructor, you should go to the chair of the department. If you need further assistance after consultation with the instructor and the chair, you should see the Provost.

Classroom Protocol

Appropriate classroom behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to the Cedar Crest College education.

Final Exam

You are required to participate in the showing as it is your final exam. If you must make end of semester travel plans early, you should schedule your travel after the Final showing day.