

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: SVPA

Course: Intermediate Dance Technique

Level: 10-12

Credits: 5 Visual/Performing Arts or 3.75 Physical Education

Course Description:

Intermediate Dance Technique is a structured, polished technique class for male and female students with prior training in movement and dance. The class combines the concepts of modern dance with the legwork and lyricism of both modern and ballet techniques. Students create and critique dances which emphasize both a movement-based and a thematic approach to dance making, and are guided through exercises which develop improvisational skill. Students present their work both in class and as part of a public performance in the spring.

Standards:

Standard 1.1: The Creative Process – All students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles that govern the creation of works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

Standard 1.2: History of the Arts and Culture – All students will understand the role, development, and influence of the arts throughout history and across cultures

Standard 1.3: Performing – All students will synthesize skills, media, methods, and technologies that are appropriate to creating, performing, and/or presenting works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

Standard 1.4: Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies – All students will demonstrate and apply an

Standard 1.5: understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

Anchor Text(s):

None available. Suggest readings: Dance Composition Basics by Pamela Anderson Sofras; Contact Improvisation by Cheryl Palant; Learning About Dance by Nora Ambrosio; The Vision of Modern Dance by Brown, Mindlin and Woodford; Dancers Talking Dance by Larry Lavender; The Intimate Act of Choreography by Blom and Chaplin; Moving From Within by Alma M. Hawkins; Dynamic Alignment Through Imagery by Eric Franklin; Dance Imagery for Technique and Performance by Eric Franklin; Fifty Contemporary Choreographers by Martha Bremser

Supplementary Materials:

Classroom instruction is embellished through the use of videotaped showings pertaining to performances of current professional dance companies and the history of dance; supplemental training also in Yoga and Pilates.

Units of Study:

- Overview of course; establishment of class etiquette; introduction to movement concepts and principles, choreographic concepts, technical steps and terms; introduction to placement, alignment and physiology involved; establishment of self-assessment skills; execute basic combinations and transpose to other side

- Refinement of execution of exercises and steps from Unit I; expand knowledge of exercises, terms and concepts; application of breath to phrasing; accept and apply group corrections to personal performance; demonstrate correct placement and alignment
- refine execution of exercises and steps from previous units; execute combinations of
- increasing complexity and transpose to other side; expand upon knowledge of movement, concepts and terms; research a historical figure in dance for classroom presentation
- continued refinement of all learned exercises, steps, phrases and concepts; demonstrate self-reliance and performance attitude/quality in classroom performance; create brief dance in each genre utilizing personal style and movement vocabulary.

Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Exemplify an appreciation for the discipline and dedication required to be a professional dancer, possess knowledge of currently performing dance companies, and seek out and attend performances.
- Demonstrate acceptable social interaction skills and behaviors as they are applied to proper dance class etiquette.
- Visually identify, physically demonstrate, and verbally describe terms from modern dance technique, ballet, jazz, and yoga terms.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the physiological processes of the human body as they relate to the execution of movement, injury prevention, and treatment.
- Demonstrate increasing knowledge and skill in different techniques through daily execution of movement: refine alignment, placement, and balance, increase upper and lower body strength, flexibility, agility, balance, and clarity.
- Feel comfortable with artistic risk, improvising, and problem solving with personal movement explorations and innovations.
- Solidify a personal movement style, heightened awareness of self, and awareness of the role a dancer plays within groups or companies of dancers.
- Create, contrast, analyze, and critique dances that emphasize both a movement-based and thematic approach to dance making.
- Craft a meaningful dance paring personal insights of human behavior, environment, and/or heritage and culture with explored concepts of dance making.
- Embrace a system of positive and productive self-evaluation and the ability to set personal goals and monitor progress.

Evaluation & Assessment:

Student learning incorporates a variety of methods, strategies and skills. Therefore, in an attempt to accurately evaluate student achievement, various methods of alternative assessments will be employed in the grading of students, including:

- Tests/Quizzes are an assessment of cumulative knowledge and understanding of a unit of study and may include the following: performance-based assessments of applied learning, group composition, written tests designed to identify knowledge of terminology; physical and written activities demonstrating ability to analyze, compare and contrast differing technical steps and dance concepts. **10% of grade**
- Homework enables students to exercise and reinforce their understanding and knowledge of the content and skills taught in class. Homework is assigned on occasion to stimulate further thought

and personal growth typically centering around teaching students to visualize themselves in positive terms as a learner with no limitations. **10% of grade in conjunction with tests/quizzes.**

- Class Preparation and Involvement *is an integral aspect of the learning process where students demonstrate their on-going understanding of content and concepts taught. It is both a learning and evaluative tool that is a requirement of the course.* Students perform a preparatory set of 6-10 exercises and learn/perform phrases on a daily basis. It is required that students dress appropriately for class (women in black leotard and tights/jazz pants; men in black sweats and white Ts), arrive on time, participate with full energy and maintain a productive, positive attitude on a daily basis. **80% (40/40) of grade.**