

**2009-2010 Dance AM Course Syllabus
Dance I-II Honors (Morning)**

School Name: Fine Arts Center (School District of Greenville County)

Course Name: Dance I and Dance II Honors (Morning)

Instructor: Jan Woodward

Office Room Number: Dance Studio

Phone number and extension: 355-2572

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Class Time/Room Number: 9:15-11:05 am, Dance Studio

Required Textbooks:

- Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant
- Ballet and Modern Dance: A Concise History by Jack Anderson
- The Dancer Prepares by James Penrod and Janice Gudde Plastino

Supplemental books:

- Ballet and Modern Dance by Susan Au
- The Art of Making Dances by Doris Humphrey
- Modern Dance Terminology by Paul Love

Please note that books must be returned, or paid for if lost, to the Fine Arts Center at the end of the year.

Course Description:

see below under "Tentative Course Outline/Deadlines"

Objectives:

see below under "Tentative Course Outline/Deadlines"

Mission and Philosophy:

- The Fine Arts Center dance program is a pre-professional training program, which seeks to prepare dance students for continued study at college or university dance programs or for professional careers in dance.
- The dance curriculum at the Fine Arts Center concentrates on two complementary dance disciplines allowing for in-depth study. Ballet is the standard, international language of dance, and modern dance is the creative force in choreography. These create the foundation necessary for college and professional dance auditions.
- Ballet and modern dance have a long tradition dating back centuries and decades respectively, and we seek to carry on that tradition with respect, discipline, and love.
- Many other styles are important, and we encourage students to explore these as well, possibly through additional training at private studios.
- Our graduates have gone on to successful college studies in state at Columbia College, Winthrop University, and Coker College, and out of state at the University of Georgia, North Carolina School of the Arts, New York University, University of Utah, and many other institutions.
- Our graduates have gone on to perform with professional dance companies including the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Sacramento Ballet, Lexington Ballet, Ballet Arkansas, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Liz Lerman and others.
- Our graduates teach in numerous public schools, colleges and universities, and private studios.

Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Tardy Policy:

Outlined in the Fine Arts Center Student Handbook.

Students and parents sign that they have read the Student Handbook.

Additional policies for Dance class stated in Dance Department Handbook.

B. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend class each day, to arrive on time, and to bring all necessary materials including: clothes, paper/pen, homework, and textbook (as needed).
- Students are expected to participate fully in all class activities.
- Students are expected to comply with dress requirements as outlined.
- Students are expected to comply with dress, behavior, attendance, and participation requirements as outlined.
- Students are expected to show respect to the teacher, classmates, dance studio/facilities, and school building.

C. Supplies Necessary for Course:

- **Mirella M315L or Bloch L5415** the black tank leotard (ladies)
- **MotionWear 2102 color 141 Bloch L5409** black long-sleeve leotard (ladies)
- Black tights without feet—minimum 2 without runs or holes
- Pink convertible ballet tights—minimum 2 without runs or holes
- Pink ballet slippers (prefer split sole)
- Hair supplies: hair bands, Bobbie pins, hair clips, hair gel,
- Elastakon tape for feet (can buy at McCleskey-Todd Pharmacy of Greer (877-0753) in different sizes)
- Dance bag for dance items.
- Water bottle.

Students must have a three-ring binder with notebook paper for notes and handouts available each class.

Pencil, pen available each class.

Leotards and tights are to be used as a costume for showcases and other dance activities.

Assessment Information and Grading Scale: DANCE I & II Honors (Morning)

Student performance is graded using the mandated South Carolina state grading scale.

The grade for Dance each term is based on the following formula:

% of grade	Description
15%	Progress and improvement. Application of information learned.
20%	Dress code adherence (see dress code.)
25%	Daily Participation.
25%	Dance studies and compositions, tests, projects, and performances.
15%	Written homework assignments - Late assignments are penalized 10 points per day and are not accepted after 2 school days . If excused absence, there are 5 school days to make up work before the penalties begin.

- It is the student's responsibility to check with the instructor for missed work.
- It is the student's responsibility to check and see if there is an assignment (posted on the board, or placed in the designated class box for assignments.)
- When a student misses school the day an assignment is due, then the assignment is due the day the student returns.
- Assignments are due before a student leaves for a pre-arranged absence and not after s/he returns.

Within this grading system, students will be graded on their adherence to the dance department dress code according to the following criteria:

Grade	Description
100	Complete adherence to all dress requirements.
70	One or more items are missing or insufficient.
0	Student does not dress out and participate in class.

If a student must sit out (only with a doctor or parent note) then s/he is required to dress out according to the dress code and will take notes to turn in at the end of the class period for a daily grade. Student will have a zero (0) until a note is given to the teacher the following day.

DRESS CODE FOR DANCE 2009-2010

- **Required black solid tank leotard:** Mirella M 315 L or Bloch L5415 (with “V” neck).
- **Black long-sleeve leotard is recommended in winter:** Bloch L5409 or MotionWear 2102 color 141
- **Optional in solid colors:** Mirella M 315 L, Bloch L5415 (with “V” neck) or MotionWear 2102
- Optional: **black Capezio ballet skirt (#272)** for ballet.

FOR BALLET CLASSES:

- Theatrical pink or ballet pink tights with feet (not the shiny kind), to be worn underneath and **not outside the leotard.**
- Pink ballet slippers with elastics properly sewn on, snug fit, preferably Capezio, Bloch, Freed or other professional brand. Elastics may not be tied together or pinned to the shoe, and may not extend underneath the shoe.
- Hair **MUST** be put up, off the neck and shoulders, and in a ballet bun, bangs and hair must be out of eyes using clips and/or hair gel.

FOR MODERN CLASSES: Leotards as listed above in any solid color. Black or pink solid color tights may be worn. Ponytails are permitted at the teacher’s discretion, but the hair must be fastened neatly away from the face without bangs or hair in the eyes or falling on the face (clips, hair gel, etc.)

- NO:**
- necklaces, watches, long earrings, ankle bracelets;
 - long skirts, sweat pants, **shorts**, sweat shirts, T-shirts, or other loose fitting clothes over your tights and leotard (some **tight-fitting** items may be permitted **only in very cold weather and only at the beginning of the class during the first exercise.**)
 - For safety and health reasons, you must wear a bra—a sports bra will not be covered by the leotard and a strapless bra is not acceptable.

Leotards and tights are to be used as a costume for showcases and other dance activities. Note optional ballet skirt.

Within this grading system, students will be graded on their class participation according to the following rubric:

grade	Description
100	Participates fully in all activities maintaining good focus and high energy. Is in class ready to begin dancing on time or before (stretching and getting physically ready for class.)
90	Does not have class materials when needed including notebook, paper, pencil, props, etc.
80	Does not maintain focus and/or does not use class time wisely (such as being late to class, talking rather than stretching, practicing or observing others dance.)
70	Demonstrates lack of respect toward the work, peers or teacher.
60	Does not complete movements or sequences and/or loses focus frequently. Does not participate in an activity or exercise.
0	Does not participate in class.

Major Assignments and Projects Required:

- Semester cumulative written exam.
- Final cumulative written exam.
- **Final (Exam) Performance at the Fine Arts Center on Friday, May 7th with 7:00 p.m. curtain.**
- Rehearsals and performances.

Tentative Course Outline/Deadlines:

First Quarter

I. Technique:

Modern: Work on basic technique skills: alignment, abdominal strength and flexibility.

Ballet: Ballet technique classes. Work on stretching and strengthening. Ballet barre exercises: plié, tendu, dégagé, rond de jambe, frappe, développé, and grand battement, port de bras, passé, cou de pied. Centre and traveling steps, ½ turns, pirouettes en dehors, pas de chat, chaîné turns, grand jeté en avant.

Pilates Mat Exercises: Essential mat exercises for strength, control, and injury prevention.

II. Improvisation:

- Improvisation with shape and line in dance design; pathways, symmetry and asymmetry.
- Improvisation: Concept of Space: Place, size, direction, pathway, focus.
- Combine with art elements of line, shape, and space in design, in dance and visual art.
- Combine art and dance classes.

III. Field trips

- Greenville County Museum of Art
- POP! performance to see “Romeo & Juliet”, October 2nd
- SCDancing Festival, October 16-18 in Spartanburg

IV. Assignments:

- Reading and compositional assignments from textbooks; ballet vocabulary assignments.
- Quiz/quizzes on homework, class and studio work, vocabulary.
- Cumulative Quarter Exam from studio/class material and readings.

Second Quarter:

I. Technique:

Modern: Side falls, sitting, kneeling, standing, incorporated into floor work sequence.

High release, adding more floor work in sequences, coming into and out of the floor.

Ballet: Barre: add arms combining exercises; chassé, battement piqué, petit battement.

Centre: balancé, temps levé, petit jeté, assemblé, glissade, pirouettes en dedans, piqué in avant.

Pilates Mat Exercises: Continue Essential mat exercises adding more difficult modifications.

II. Composition:

- Concept of Space: Place, size, direction, pathway, focus.
- Concept of Time: Metered, breath phrasing.

III. Assignments:

- Reading and written assignments.
- Quiz/quizzes on homework, class and studio work, vocabulary.
- Cumulative Quarter Exam from studio/class material and readings.
- Semester Written Exam: Cumulative.

Third Quarter:

I. Technique:

Modern: Contractions, Graham technique such as contractions as prances.

Ballet: Barre: rond de jambe en l’air, demi rond de jambe en l’air, grand rond de jambe en l’air, en cloche; longer and combined barre exercises. Centre: 8 Cecchetti positions of the body in tendu and développé.; soutenu en tournant, combine steps, longer sequences.

II. Composition:

- Concept of force; use of weight.
- Compositional dance study to present to the class using the Dance Concepts explored in improvisation.
- Dance composition with a partner using dance elements and concepts of design.

III. Assignments:

- Reading and written assignments.
- Quiz/quizzes on homework, class and studio work, vocabulary.
- Cumulative Quarter Exam from studio/class material and readings.

Fourth Quarter:

I. Technique:

Modern: Longer, more complex warm up sequences, combine with some improvisation.

Leg extension work, adagio. Sequences with full body movements combined with jumps, skips or leaps.

Ballet: Adding fondu, stretches on the barre, more arm movements added.

Centre: sissone, piqué turns, more complex adagios including promenades and balances.

II. Improvisation, Composition, Performance:

- Continue to explore improvisational ideas.
- Compose individual studies and dances
- Expanding verbal and written critique and evaluation of dance compositions and choreography.

III. Rehearsals and Performance/s:

- Rehearse and work in pieces of choreography.

IV. Assignments:

- Reading and written assignments.
- Quiz/quizzes on homework, class and studio work.
- Final Written Exam: Cumulative.

V. Final Performance Exam May 7th in Fine Arts Center Dance Concert 7:00 p.m. curtain.

Description of Students in Class

Students from a wide variety of backgrounds come to the Fine Arts Center for half of their school day from all 14 District High Schools, private and charter schools, and home schools. Tuition-paying students from outside Greenville County may also be enrolled. Students span grades 9- 12, and were selected for participation on the basis of academic transcripts, a teacher recommendation, and an audition with Fine Arts Center faculty. Students come from all socio-economic statuses and the student body is racially diverse. Dance students are predominantly female but one or more male students are usually in the program.

Plan for Routine Communication With Parents:

- Quarterly Fine Arts Center Newsletter is mailed to all parents of Fine Arts Center students.
- Parents are contacted promptly in the event of academic or disciplinary problems.
- A log of parent phone calls is maintained in teacher's office.
- Contact with parents by e-mail as needed.
- Each student will receive quarterly, a progress report mid-term as needed. Grades and comments about each student's progress will be mailed to the parent as needed. If necessary, attendance will be noted.

