

**Missouri Valley College**

History of Dance  
DN-101, 3 hours  
Spring 2009  
MWF 10:00-10:50  
MR101

Professor Janie Ross

Office Hours: MW 1:50-3:00 & TR 9:30-10:40  
& 1:30-3:00 or by appointment  
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Course Description: An overview to the history of dance as a fundamental human cultural expression. This course explores the relationship of dance to religion, gender, politics, and other art forms, and its place in world events and civilizations.

Rational: This course is designed to broaden the student's perspective of dance and gain a basic knowledge of dance from the Stone Age to present through readings, discussions, and viewings.

Competencies:

- Explore dance history cross-culturally, focusing on the cultural diversity and universality of world societies through readings and video viewings.
- Identify tools for observing, experiencing and discussing dance through class discussions and video viewings.
- Survey the history and culture of world dance while developing an appreciation for dance as a fundamental component of world culture.
- Develop an understanding of how American dance forms originated, and are influenced by other cultural dance forms.

Goals:

- Appreciate dance as a fundamental component of world culture.
- Broaden individual perspectives on dance.
- Recognize the context, function, and form of dances from a variety of cultures and choreographers.

Course Requirements:

1. **Reading Assignments** Daily reading assignments from the required text and any additional supplemental materials are required as assigned.
2. **Viewings and Lectures** Weekly video viewings and lectures related to the reading assignments are required as provided.
3. **Quizzes and Test** Quizzes and tests over the readings, lectures and viewings are required as given. Make-up exams will not be given unless the absence is excused. See attendance.
4. **Final Research Project.** The culminating project will be a research paper and presentation over an approved topic. A detailed description, rubric and topic list will be provided at a later date.
5. **Concert.** Attendance of the Spring Dance Concert, April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, and a typed Concert Critique about the performance is required.

Final **10:00am on Friday, May 8, 2009.**

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory.

Tardiness is not permitted. Three tardies will equal one absence. If you arrive late your active participation in class will be at the sole discretion of the professor. Leaving class early is not permitted and will be recorded as tardiness. Arriving later than fifteen minutes after class begins or leaving fifteen minutes before class is dismissed will be counted as an absence.

Excessive unexcused or excused absences and tardiness will affect your grade and participation in this course.

#### Administrative Withdrawals:

Any student who misses fifty percent of class before the mid-term or any two consecutive weeks of class will be administratively withdrawn from the class. If the withdrawal takes place within the first six weeks of class, the student will receive a grade of "W." If the withdrawal takes place after the sixth week of class, the student will receive a "WF" or a "WP." The student will be notified of this action by the Registrar's Office. Readmission will be considered only for extenuating circumstances as approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Registrar. In such cases, where readmission is approved, a readmit fee of \$350.00 will be charged. If a student drops below full-time status of twelve hours, financial aid may be adversely affected. Resident students dropping below twelve hours will be asked to move out of campus housing. Note: If you know that you want to drop or withdraw from a class please see your advisor. Do not count on this policy to automatically withdraw you.

#### Assessment:

The following criteria only apply if the attendance requirements are met and a positive work ethic is maintained. Deductions due to either are taken from the sum total of your grade.

1. In-class: Lectures, Viewings, Active Participation and Related Assignments. 42%
2. Readings, Quizzes and Related Assignments. 28%
3. Spring Dance Concert. 5%
3. Midterm/Final Project. 25%

#### Required Text:

Cass, Joan. *Dancing through History*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1993.

#### Grading Scale:

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 69-60
- F 59-0

#### Special Needs:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please inform your instructor immediately. After proper documentation, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

#### Missouri Valley College Code of Conduct:

It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to support the academic integrity of the institution. This applies to personal honesty in all aspects of collegiate

work, all student records and all contact with faculty and staff. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes Plagiarism.

It shall also be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to be respectful of the right of other students, staff and faculty to ensure a safe and peaceful atmosphere conducive to the educational goals of an institution of higher learning. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Student actions that do not adhere to the MVC Student Code of Conduct will be addressed according to college policies regarding academic dishonesty and disruptive behavior. Students who exhibit dishonest, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior risk suspension or expulsion from the institution.

**This syllabus is subject to change and revision upon the discretion of the instructor.**

Course Outline:

January 9<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS

January 12 Discussion on What is Dance?

Assignment: Read A Historical Sense of Direction pg. ix-xiii

January 14 Assignment: Read Tribal Rites: The Life of Stone Age Man pg. 1-8

January 16 Assignment: Read Dance in Tribal Societies: Forms of Ritual Dance pg. 9-19

January 19 NO CLASS Martin Luther King Day

January 21 Assignment: Read Asian Ceremonies pg. 20-29

January 23 Assignment: Read Early Mediterranean Civilizations pg. 30-37

January 26 Assignment: Read Folk Dance Development in Medieval Europe and Today pg. 38-49

January 28 Assignment: Read Noble Beginnings pg. 50-62

January 30 Assignment: Read Court Spectacles pg. 63-74

February 2 Assignment: Read The Sun King Dances pg. 75-83

February 4 Assignment: Read Entrechats and Revolutions pg. 84-94

February 6 Assignment: Read Historical Paradoxes pg. 95-100

February 9 Assignment: Read Romantic Ballet pg. 101-116

February 11 Assignment: Read Exotic Voyages pg. 116-121

February 13 Assignment: Read Giselle pg. 122-131

February 16 Assignment: Read Travelogue pg. 132-141

February 18 Assignment: Read Russian Imperial Heights pg. 142-158

February 20 Assignment: Read Experiments in Entertainment pg. 159-179

February 23 Assignment: Read International Regrouping pg. 180-185

February 25 Assignment: Read British Taste and Manners pg. 186- 203

February 27 Assignment: Read Reprise pg. 204-209

March 2 Mid-Terms

March 4 Mid-Terms

March 6 Mid-Terms

March 9

March 11

March 13

March 14-22 Spring Break

March 23 Assignment: Read In the Beginning pg. 210-223

March 25 Assignment: Read Modern Dance Creations pg. 224-235

March 27 Assignment: Read Denishawn pg. 236-245

March 30 Assignment: Read German Detour pg. 246-253

April 1 Assignment: Read Towering Genius of Psychodrama pg. 254-270

April 3 Assignment: Read Humanists pg. 270-283

April 6 Assignment: Read Impressive Figures pg. 284- 292

April 8 Assignment: Read Mid-Century Modern Dance pg. 292-301

April 10 NO Class GOOD FRIDAY

April 13 Assignment: Read Afro-American Dancers pg. 301-315

April 15 Assignment: Read Revival of American Ballet pg. 315-323

April 17 Assignment: Read The Many Styles of American Ballet pg. 324-341

April 20 Assignment: Read Bodies in Motion pg. 341-355

April 22 Assignment: Read Movement Abstractions and Beyond pg. 355-367

April 24 Assignment: Read Epilogue pg. 367-372

April 27

April 29

May 1<sup>st</sup> Last Day of Classes

May 4<sup>th</sup> Stop Day

Final Friday May 8 @10am