

Prepared by the Department of Arts and Communication

Date of Departmental Approval: February 14, 2017

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: February 22, 2017

Effective: Fall 2017

1. **Course Number:** DAN120  
**Course Title:** Modern Dance I
2. **Description:** This course provides students with a fundamental knowledge of modern dance techniques and composition. Participation in dance exercises, observation, and discussion of various modern dance styles enables students to develop a physical awareness and understanding of modern dance. Emphasis is placed on participation.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
  - Execute basic modern dance vocabulary and exercises, including knowledge of proper alignment and body mechanics.
  - Modify dance movement according to instructor and peer feedback.
  - Utilize the basic principles of ballet and modern dance to develop strength, control, and flexibility of the muscles and body.
  - Explore the evolution of modern dance by researching and writing about the contributions of diverse choreographers such as Martha Graham, Jose Limon, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey.
  - Recognize the basic elements of dance composition, including sequence and timing.
  - Calculate the total number of beats within the chosen musical piece in order to create an appropriate choreography
  - Structure movement to fit within a limited musical phrase
  - Analyze music in order to assure that movement corresponds to the pacing and tempo of the musical phrase
  - Interpret selections of music and movement, to create a cohesive pattern of dance moves.
  - Work with fellow students to choreograph and perform a short dance sequence.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits; may be repeated once for credit.
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Humanities and Fine Arts.
6. **Prerequisites:** ENL025 (Reading & Writing Essentials) or satisfactory basic skills assessment score
7. **Semesters Offered:** Fall, Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** The final grade is based on attendance, active participation, completion of a research paper, mid-term evaluation, and a final dance project.
9. **General Topical Outline:** This course emphasizes studies in dance technique, improvisation, and composition.