

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Contemporary Studies in Dance I-IV:** *All students receive Texas State Credit for Modern Dance under the course Contemporary Studies in Dance I-IV; each course has the subtitles: Basic, Beginning, Beginning-Intermediate, Intermediate, and Advanced Modern. While this course is a full-year course, teachers will change sections at semester.*

**Contemporary Studies I-IV** develops the student's understanding of fundamental principles, practices, and vocabulary common to Contemporary Studies in Dance and fundamental to the Modern Movement which broke away from the classical traditions of ballet. Classes consist of a series of technical exercises that condition the body for strength, flexibility, endurance, and coordination; develop a physical and conceptual awareness of the elements of space, time, and energy; and promote performance skills of concentration, focus, intent, and musicality. Emphasis is on building the physical capacities of the body with awareness of alignment, developing complete range of motion, developing rhythmic clarity and spatial intent, developing musicality, developing movement analysis skills, and learning skills of focus and concentration. Contemporary Studies in Dance involves qualitative aspects of movement patterning, sequencing, and performance through axial and complex traveling combinations. Emphasis is placed on breath control, phrasing, clarity of line, and movement qualities. Improvisation and extended combinations develop performance commitment.

**Intermediate Modern I-IV** is a professional level course in which students must be able to demonstrate intermediate skills in both center and traveling techniques. Execution of complex rhythmic combinations with weight and directional changes is required. Combinations of multiple skills in both grounded and elevated skills can include multiple turns. Coordination, strength, flexibility, endurance, and artistry are key skills in this course.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Each dancer is expected to attend and participate in every class. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for any make up work, both written and skills.
- Written assignments will be in the form of a specific assignment or a journal.
- It is expected that every dancer will dress according to the Dance Department Dress Code (Black leotard and tights without feet, colored leotards on Friday) and that hair be worn off the face and neck. For the safety of the dancers, no jewelry is worn during class.
- There will be a skills test or formative assessment approximately every other week; participation grades will be given weekly; an improvement grade is given at the end of each six weeks.
- If a student cannot participate in class due to an illness or an injury, ***a note, e-mail, or a phone call that day is required! After one week of non-participation, a student must have a note from a physician.***
- If a student cannot participate in class, he/she must complete an observation assignment to be turned in at the end of class that day.

## EVALUATION

<b>Participation:</b>	<b>40%</b>
Participation grades will be given weekly on effort, approach, and daily work	
<b>Assignments/Skills:</b>	<b>25%</b>
Skill mastery grades will be assessed every other week in the form of a skills test or formative assessment	
<b>Effort:</b>	<b>20%</b>
Effort, approach, daily work	
<b>Six Weeks Project/Grade:</b>	<b>15%</b>

**COURSE SCHEDULE (The students will explore each of the concepts/skills throughout the semester)**

**First Six Weeks:** Exploration and review of the following contemporary concepts through movement phrases

Concept of **Alignment** in isolation and in beginning-intermediate movement skills  
Center **Core Stability** in axial and traveling techniques  
Concept of **Hip Rotation** including parallel and turned out rotation  
Concept of **Contraction/Release**  
Concept of **Fall/Recovery or Drop/Rebound**  
Kinesthetic and Spatial Awareness (includes **Head-Tail Relationship**)  
Concept of lateral, sagittal, and transverse planes  
Concept of abduction and adduction  
Applied efforts and qualities as it affects performance

**Second Six Weeks:** Continuation of the concepts introduced in the First Six Weeks including advanced combinations that include the following skills:

Contraction, spiral, high chest release, turns, extensions, torso articulation in a full range of motion in standing and traveling techniques, level changing including elevation, balance, musical phrasing, sequencing, flexibility, strength and endurance, floor work, and advanced traveling combinations requiring complex transferring of weight

Off centered work: Layout, Tilt, T, Pitch, Attitude, Passé, and Extensions

As the skills are mastered, more difficult combinations will be introduced to include floor work and turning.

Analysis of assigned performances or rehearsals

**Third Six Weeks:** Continuation of the concepts and skills introduced in the First and Second Six Weeks including the following skills/concepts:

Executing floor work that changes level with accuracy  
Floor Work: Rolls, Rolls on the Back, Shoulder Balances, Shifts of Weight, Support Work, Inversions  
Balance on Relevé: Passé, Front, Second, Tilts, T, Arabesque, Attitude  
Connections/Transitions/Artistry

**Assessments:** The following could be used to assess the students: formative assessments to develop targeted objectives (ie: Placement Auditions-benchmark assessments at the beginning of each school year or semester); summative assessments to measure mastery of skill level (skills tests); peer-evaluation with a standardized rubric; written vocabulary tests or demonstration of specific vocabulary as a test; participation grades; and improvement grades (for example: moving from proficient to advanced mastery in a particular skill).