

DANC-1401: AFRICAN DANCE I

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: DANC-1401 : African Dance I

Board of Trustees:

2015-05-28

Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

DANC - Dance

Course Number:

1401

Title:

African Dance I

Catalog Description:

First in a two-course sequence. Introduction to the fundamentals and basic movements of dances from West Africa. Experience traditional dances that celebrate rites of passage, harvest, courtship and healing/celebration of life. Through these traditional dances and rhythms, dancers will understand the commonalities of dance and music in world cultures and build mutually supportive relationships, reflective of actual dance in West African villages. Community is achieved through dance and collective work towards a final presentation.

Credit Hour(s):

1

Lab Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

None.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Perform basic West African Dances.

Objective(s):

1. Develop basic understanding of West African musicality necessary for further African dance training.
2. Hear a "break" – general musical indicator in all rhythms.
3. Identify and differentiate West African rhythms.
4. Demonstrate dynamic movement and physical endurance necessary to progress to further African dance training.
5. Perform progressions across the floor.
6. Recall and perform sequences and patterns in basic West African choreography.
7. Execute dynamics within West African movement.
8. Identify the origins and purposes for various West African dances.

Methods of Evaluation:

- A. Across the floor demonstrations of steps and sequences.
- B. Observation and written critique of related film/documentary screenings or live African dance performance.
- C. Daily class participation and effort.
- D. Journaling and written reflections.
- E. Execution of choreography.
- F. Participation in final presentation.

Course Content Outline:

1. Origins and Purpose
 - a. Country of origin for dances and rhythms.
 - b. Why dances are performed /purpose.
 - c. Who participates in the dances.
 - d. Similarities and differences between dances and rhythms.
2. Musicality
 - a. West African musical phrasing including breaks and polyrhythms.
 - b. Embody and internalize various West African rhythms.
3. Community-building
 - a. Valuing the gifts that each individual brings to the community.
 - b. Creating and maintaining a safe space for expression and exploration.
4. Choreography
 - a. Memory and recall of phrases and floor patterns.
 - b. Dynamics and movement quality.
5. Performance Competencies
 - a. Spatial awareness
 - b. Clarity of movement
 - c. Projection of energy
 - d. Focus
 - e. Stage presence

Resources

Malone, Jacqui. *Steppin' on the Blues: The Visible Rhythms of African American Dance*. University of Illinois Press, 1996.

Welsh-Asante, Kariamu, ed. *Some Spirits Heal, Others Only Dance: A Journey into Human Selfhood in an African Village*. Oxford International Publishers, Limited, 1999.

Diops, Chiekh Anta. *African Origins of Civilization*. Wrench Hill Books, 1991.

Beckwith, Carol; Fisher, Angela. *African Ceremonies*. Publisher: Abrams, Harry N., Inc., 1999.

Some, Malidoni Patrice. *The Healing Wisdom of Africa: Finding Life's Purposes Through Nature Ritual and Community*. Publisher: Abrams, Harry N., Inc., 1998.

Some, Malidoni Patrice. *Of Water and the Spirit: Ritual Magic and Initiation in Life in an African Shman*. Publisher: Abrams, Harry N., Inc., 1995.

Welsh-Asante, Kariamu, ed. "African Dance: An Artistic, Historial and Philosophical Inquiry" 1994-10-01 00:00:00.0.

Alphonse Tierou, Dierdre McMahon (Translator). "Doople: The Eternal Law of African Dance" Volume 2.

Huet. "The Dance Art and Ritual of Africa"

Resources Other

1. VHS: Healing Dance
2. DVD: Monday's Girls. PBS

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