

# DANC-2400: AFRICAN DANCE II

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: DANC-2400 : African Dance II**

**Board of Trustees:**

2015-05-28

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2019

**Subject Code**

DANC - Dance

**Course Number:**

2400

**Title:**

African Dance II

**Catalog Description:**

Provides a deeper exploration of 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 gain deeper understanding of the commonalities of dance and music in world cultures and build mutually supportive relationships. Dancers assume leadership and increase individual contributions to community by working towards a final presentation.

**Credit Hour(s):**

1

**Lab Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

DANC-1401 African Dance I.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Perform West African Dances at an intermediate level.

**Objective(s):**

1. Identify a "break" – general musical indicator in all rhythms.
2. Recognize West African rhythms and associate them with their respective dances.
3. Perform progressions across the floor.
4. Recall and perform sequences and patterns in basic West African choreography.
5. Execute dynamics within West African movement.
6. Memorize a rhythm and match it to the country of origin and meaning.
7. Choreograph a minimum of 1 solo or small group phrase for final presentation.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Across the floor demonstrations of steps and sequences.
2. Observation and written critique of related film/documentary screenings or live African dance performance.
3. Daily class participation and effort.
4. Choreography and execution including choreographic phrase.
5. Journaling and written reflections.
6. 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. Understanding how to move through West African musical phrasing.
  - b. Breaks - to start, change and stop movement.
  - c. Properly aligning dances with 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
  - b. Dynamics and movement quality
  - c. Memory and recall of floor patterns
  - d. Sequences and transitions
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Huet. "The Dance Art and Ritual of Africa"

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**Resources Other**

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