Raritan Valley Community College Academic Course Outline

DANC-210 DANCE COMPOSITION AND IMPROVISATION

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: DANC-210 Dance Composition and Improvisation

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Fall 2018

E. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 4 Lecture: 2

Laboratory: 2

Out of class student work per week: 5

H. Prerequisites: No

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

John Sichel (<u>John.Sichel@raritanval.edu</u>) and Vanny Nadkarni (Vandana.Nadkarni@raritanval.edu),

Dean Patrice Marks (Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu)

II. Catalog Description

Dance Composition and Improvisation allows student to expand their choreographic sensibilities, develop problem solving skills, and widen their ability to discuss and critique choreographic issues. Improvisation is a process of spontaneous decision-making based on knowledge of possibilities of movement, rhythm, and spatial patterns, and requires adaptability and cooperation with others. Improvisation studies will develop trust and movement awareness. Composition is the art of making dances. The elements of time, space/shape, and energy/quality will be studied through assignments that emphasize analysis and performance. Students will be required to provide appropriate dance attire.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course complements the four-semester sequence of dance technique, and is a standard course in all baccalaureate dance curricula.
- **B**. The lab component is a necessity in a performance/rehearsal course, and offers the students the ability to learn and rehearse the choreography and assignments
- C. Transferability:
 - 1. This course generally transfers as a dance program elective.
 - 2. This course generally transfers as a dance program requirement.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for the A.F.A. Dance Degree.
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

Class will consist of the following major components:

- A. Dance Technique: warm-up stretches and exercises
- B. Movement phrases for experimentation
- C. Improvisation
 - 1. Movement exploration and spontaneous movement response
- D. Solo compositional studies, such as
 - 1. time study
 - 2. energy study
 - 3. space study
 - 4. theme and variation study
 - 5. prop/environment study
- E. Group compositional studies, such as the Elements of Dance (based on Doris Humphrey's work)
 - 1. Design
 - 2. Dynamics
 - 3. Motivation
 - 4. Rhythm
- F. Contact Improvisation

- G. Observing and Utilizing Dance Improvisation
 - 1. Form and Composition
 - 2. Content and Theme
 - 3. Emotional and Expressive
- H. Historical and Cultural Perspective of Dance Improvisation with relationship to improvisation in other art forms
- I. Performance preparation
- J. Performance critique
- K. Thematic development and personal vocabulary as it relates to artistic vision

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Identify, analyze and critique dance as a communicative art form and a means of personal expression both orally and in writing. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
- 2. Apply critical analysis skills of movement styles and structure. (GE-NJ 1, *) (*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate development in their performance and compositional skills
- 2. Expand their ability to discuss and critique choreographic issues.

C. Assessment Instruments

- A. Lecture/discussion and critique
- B. Small-group work
- C. Student presentations
- D. Student collaboration
- E. Instructor Demonstration
- F. In-class and homework movement assignments

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Professional class attitude
- B. Projects
- C. Attendance/Participation
- D In class rehearsal process
- E. Weekly assignments

- F. Technical improvement
- G. Exams

Primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Lecture/discussion and critique
- B. Small-group work
- C. Student presentations
- D. Student collaboration
- E. Instructor Demonstration
- F. In-class and homework movement assignments

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested text(s):

- 1. <u>The Art of Making Dances</u>, Humphrey, Doris, NY: Grove Press, <u>GV1782.5.H83 1987</u>
- 2. Dance: The Art of Production edited by Joan Schlach and Betty DuPont
- 3. <u>The Intimate Act of Choreography</u>, Blom, Lynn Anne & Chapin, L. Tarin, Univ. of Pittsburgh Press. <u>GV1782.5.B55 1982</u>
- B. Appropriate dance rehearsal clothes, such as leotards and tights.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Video and DVD equipment
- B. Stereo system equipped with cassette tape, digital audio input and CD
- C. Rehearsal Dance Studio, with professional floor, barres and appointments
- D. Marker board
- E. Library of video and DVD performance recordings

X. Honors Option: N/A