Raritan Valley Community College Academic Course Outline

DANC 122- CONTEMPORARY DANCE HISTORY

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: DANC-122 CONTEMPORARY DANCE HISTORY

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2015

D. Effective Term: Fall 2015

E. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

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

Donna Stackhouse (<u>Donna.Stackhouse@raritanval.edu</u>) & Dennis Russo (<u>Dennis.Russo@raritanval.edu</u>)

II. Catalog Description

This course serves as an art appreciation course and expands the choices for students who need to fill a Humanities/Art Appreciation General Education requirement. Contemporary Dance History will introduce the student to both a broad cross-section of 20th century modern dance and ballet through both description and analysis and current theories contextualizing the study of those dance practices. The course will enable students to develop an awareness of movement as an artistic medium and provides a frame of reference from which to view and appreciate dance and dance performances. Students will acquire a visual vocabulary of historical and contemporary dance styles through a variety of media including lectures, slides, videos, and by dancing themselves. Students will be required to view a live dance performance. Offered in the Spring Semester.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Contemporary Dance History examines selected works of dance in a historical, cultural and social context. This course serves as an art appreciation course and expands the choices for students who need to fill a Humanities/Art Appreciation General Education requirement. This course is a core requirement of the A.F.A. Dance Degree at RVCC and is a required course in most 4 year university dance programs.

B. No lab component

C. Transferability:

- 1. This course generally transfers as a Humanities General Education course.
- 2. This course generally transfers as a dance elective program requirement.
- 3. This course generally transfers as a dance program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/Art Appreciation.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.F.A. Dance degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a0 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

- A. Early founders of modern dance
 - 1. Isadora Duncan
 - 2. Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn
 - 3. Loie Fuller
- B. Classic modern dance pioneers
 - 1. Martha Graham
 - 2. Doris Humphrey
 - 3. Charles Weidman
- C. Social activism in modern dance during the early 20th century
 - 1. New Dance Group
- D. 2nd generation modern dance masters
 - 1. Alwin Nikolais
 - 2. Erick Hawkins
 - 3. Jose Limon
- E. German modern dance masters
 - 1. Rudolph Laban
 - 2. Mary Wigman
 - 3. Kurt Jooss
 - 4. Hanya HoIm, et al
- F. Post-modern dance
 - 1. Merce Cunningham/John Cage

- 2. Judson Dance Theater
- G. African-American modern concert dance
- H. 2nd generation Judson Dance Theater artists
- I. Contact Improvisation
- J. 20th century ballet

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Demonstrate orally and in writing, through cultural, historical and stylistic perspectives, the development of movement, choreography and dance. (GE-NJ 1, 6, 8) *
 - * embedded critical thinking

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Describe the categories of compositional elements, movement analysis, and dance terminology.
- 2. Compare and contrast choreographic styles and trends.
- 3. Evaluate dance works using objective and subjective criteria.

C. Assessment Instruments

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. In class critique
- C. Reading and written assignments
- D. Small-group work and student collaborations
- E. Computer-assisted instruction
- F. Student oral presentations
- G. In class movement work
- H. Examinations
- I. Research Paper

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Attendance
- B. Participation
- C. Weekly assignments and readings
- D. Written examinations and Final exam
- E. Written critique of a live dance performance
- F. Final paper

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested text

- 1. <u>The Dance Experience: Insights Into History, Culture and Creativity,</u> Second Edition by Myron Howard Nadel and Marc Raymond Strauss, 0871272512
- 2. Moving History/Dancing Cultures, Ann Dils/Ann Cooper-Albright, Editors
- 3. Dance As a Theatre Art, Selma Jeanne Cohen, Editor

B. Materials: None

(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. CAT room, equipped with computer, DVD and Video monitor equipment.
- B. Marker board
- C. Library of video and DVD performance recordings
- D. Reviews from journals/magazines/newspapers