



Course- Dance for Musical Theatre

Monday-Friday 7th Period

Location- Café

Course Instructor- Mr. Bennett

Email- pbennett@paparts.org

Course Description-

This course is designed to give the aspiring musical theatre performer a basic understanding of the different styles of dance used throughout the canon of Musical Theatre. Students will learn and perform choreography from musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *A Chorus Line*, *42nd Street*, etc. Throughout the course, we will learn the original choreography of seminal Broadway choreographers, such as Jerome Robbins and Michael Bennett. We will also practice audition techniques, and how to conduct oneself in rehearsal. In order to execute the choreography of these incredible artists, students will be learning several forms of dance including: ballet, jazz, tap, and ballroom. We will also explore audition techniques as well as how to conduct oneself in rehearsal.

Along with learning and executing choreography from various musicals, the students will also study and analyze these musicals in regards to their historical context; the artists involved in making the show; and its impact on the evolution of the American Musical Theatre. Throughout the semester, students are expected to write critiques on performances they see, write research papers based on the musical we are studying, and create a piece of choreography of their own. This course is designed to create a thinking dancer, who is knowledgeable about the performative aspects of dance in musical theatre, as well as the history of the art form and the artist who have made it.

Course Objectives-

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify major choreographer and their contributions to the canon of Musical Theatre.
- Recognize and analyze seminal musicals throughout the history of Musical Theatre.
- Demonstrate basic dance vocabulary from the following forms of dance: ballet, jazz, tap, and ballroom.
- Execute choreography from the Broadway repertoire.
- Develop a broader understanding of their kinesthetic awareness, coordination, and spatial awareness.
- Work in small groups to choreography a 2-4 minute piece from the American Musical Theatre canon.

Supplies/Dress Code-

1. Notebook paper/dividers
2. Proper Dress attire (see below)
3. Hair ties/bobby pins/clips to keep hair off and out of your face
4. Jazz shoes must be worn in the dance studio
5. Deodorant
6. Water bottle
7. Personal first aid needs (Band-Aids, etc.)

NOTE THAT LARGE JEWELRY ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE CLASS - FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Boys

- Form-fitting white or black t-shirt
- Fitted black jazz pants/shorts
- dance belt (worn under clothes)

Girls

- Black leotard
- Pink tights
- Split Sole Jazz Shoes
- Fitted black jazz pants/shorts

Corrections-

Dance is physical in nature and therefore corrections are physical in nature. If a dancer is uncomfortable with being touched, please see the instructor prior to class.

Assessment-

Rehearsal Grades- 100 points each

Rehearsal grades will be given out randomly each week (at least twice a week). Some weeks it may be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; other weeks it may be Tuesday and Thursday, for example. The grades are given randomly so the students will dress out everyday and not just the days that are given a grade. A total of 100 points per day will be given on the days that grades are assigned. The daily grade breakdown is as follows:

- **Participation** (20 points)- the student is actively participating in all aspects of class, works through and does not give up on a difficult technique or step, is engaged in class activity. Students will be docked for talking out of turn, disrupting class, not trying, etc.
- **Attitude** (20 points)- Students come to class with a positive attitude and are kind and generous to their fellow students and instructor. Students will be docked if they are disrespectful to their teacher or fellow students, use inappropriate language, do not keep hands to themselves, etc.
- **Focus** (20 points)- Students are concentrating and working on the task at hand. Students will be docked for: using phone in class, eating in class, talking out of turn, disrupting class, etc.
- **Dressing Out** (20 points)- Students will come to class in proper dance uniform with hair back. Students will be docked if they are not wearing all aspects of their dance attire.
- **Arriving on time** (20 points)

If you must sit out for a medical reason (and have a doctor's note), you will be required to observe and script class to receive some credit (using the proper form). Excessive absences/tardiness will negatively affect the student's grade, as it is a "participation class."

Papers/Dance Journals- 50 points each

Sporadically, writing assignments will be assigned in class. Each assignment will include: MLA formatting, written in Times New Roman 12-point font, 1 inch margins, a thesis statement, and topic sentences. Writing assignments will consist of writing responses to class readings, journal entries, and critiques of live performances or videos they have seen. Rubrics will be given out, so students will know how they will be assessed.

Students are required to keep a weekly online dance journal, where they will keep track of the corrections they receive in class. The journal can be found on the Google Classroom page under the assignment tab. The instructor will grade the journals several times throughout each quarter, and students will not be given advance notice to the students as to when they will be collected, in order to ensure that students are making daily entries.

In Class Group Projects/Quizzes- 10 points each

Sporadically, students are assigned a group project, and will work together to choreograph a short piece. Throughout the year, students will be given written quizzes. The quizzes will focus on vocabulary and dance history. The quizzes will feature multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. Students will also have practical quizzes where they are quizzed on a technique like pirouette, or a combination we are working on in class.

Tests/Performances- 200 Points

Students will be given both written and practical exams and quizzes. The practical exams will be given at least once a semester. Students will be assessed on their dancing (musicality, technical execution of dance step, etc). A rubric will be given out prior to each exam so student will know what they will tested on, as well as how they will be graded. The practical exams will be videoed, in order for the students to be able to see their movement and assess themselves.

Students will also have a written final exam at the end of each semester. These exams are given across the dance department: every student taking a dance course is required to take these exams.

Dance Department Rules

* Be prompt * Be polite * Be prepared * Be productive * Be positive * No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the dance studio.

Classroom Expectations-

Learning any new skill set can be scary, however, with time and practice, one can master the new skill they are learning. The same is true in the dance studio. While learning new steps or choreography, you may feel or look silly at the start. This happens to everyone, so please do not be too hard on yourself. Also, if you notice a classmate struggling with the material we are learning, please be kind to your fellow students. At one point or another, we will all struggle (it is part of the learning experience). **It is essential that we have a space that is safe and fosters a positive learning environment.**

1. Be respectful to instructor and fellow classmates.
2. Please come to class prepared to dance: be on time, wear the proper attire, have a positive attitude, and be ready to move.
3. Please have hair pulled back in ponytail or bun, and no loose jewelry.
4. No food, drink, or gum in the studio, water is permitted.
5. No cell phones.

Consequences- If you are not able to follow these guidelines, these are the consequence:

1. Warning- The student will be warned and will be redirected back to the work at hand.
2. If the student continues breaking the expectations of the classroom, they will be asked to sit out of the remainder of class and will not receive and points for participation.
3. If the negative behavior is still a problem, they will be sent to the office and the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Annual Dance Concert:

Students will have one major performance during the second semester: Spring Dance Concert held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC). We do not have the dates for Spring Dance Concert yet, and will get them out to you as soon as we know. **Students are required to participate**, and this is a major part of their third quarter grade. Technical and dress rehearsals will take place on stage at NHCC on the Tuesday and Wednesday during school hours before opening night. Performances will take place on a Thursday and Friday evening at 7pm and Saturday 2pm.



I have read and understand the Course Syllabus for the DANCE class(es) in which my student is enrolled at PAPA
(Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, and/or Musical Theater)

Due: September 1, 2022

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Email _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Please note that in addition to the course syllabus, you must complete the FIELD TRIP/ HEALTH FORM for the SPRING DANCE SHOW, Dance Department Addendum, and sign a liability waiver.

Please list any physical or medical conditions that your teacher might need to know about. Note that the teacher may ask for a doctor's release before the student is allowed to participate.

All information remains confidential, as per HIPAA and FERPA regulations.