

Course Syllabus 2023–2024

Contemporary Dance I, II, & III & Contemporary Dance Ensemble

Ms. Naomi Elizabeth Montoya

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Contemporary Dance Course Description

Modern/Contemporary dance is a requirement for university/conservatory dance programs as it helps create a strong and versatile dancer. Students will develop an understanding of the artistic and technical elements of physical expression that lead to performance artistry and will attain a technical proficiency based on sound kinesiological principles. Warm-ups are based mostly in Horton technique. Students will also engage in the collaborative process and will build on the intellectual and aesthetic understanding of craft and technique. Workshops and guest instructors will be featured occasionally. A live musician may accompany class on occasion as well. Students will get out of class what they put into it – students who work hard, maintain a positive attitude, keep an open mind, are willing to take risks, and are able to take and implement correction will obtain the most benefits.

Contemporary Dance I: This course is designed for students new to dance, new to contemporary dance, or have minimal or consistent formal recent study in ballet or contemporary.. Students will explore breath, correct body alignment and injury prevention, proper health and nutrition, basic dance modes of body (space, effort, and shape), dance history, performance/audience etiquette, and respect for the art of dance.

Contemporary Dance II: This course is designed for the student who has mastered basic contemporary, has a working knowledge of basic anatomy, and is ready for more challenges in dance. Class will be more physically demanding than CD I and exploration in technique, dance history, and movement will be continued.

Contemporary Dance III: This course is for the upper-intermediate to advanced dance student interested in pursuing dance as a career or a serious hobby. It is expected that students be in excellent physical condition, have a strong ballet, jazz, or modern/contemporary technique base, and take other dance classes outside of this class. More performance and choreography opportunities will be available to these students. Expectations include professionalism and appropriateness at all times. An audition may be necessary to secure placement for this course.

Contemporary Dance Ensemble: This class is for pre-professional dance students strong in technique and is available by audition only. Students in Ensemble work on repertory and collaborate on choreography for various projects and performance. Ensemble functions as a dance company and members act as professionals who positively represent Ms. Montoya, the CD program, and PAPA in and outside of school. These students have more opportunities to perform, create, collaborate, and take master classes and workshops. Ensemble is a privilege and high expectations are expected of each student. CDE are bound to a contract in addition to the requirements of the course.

Class rules

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

Class Routines/Procedures/Schedule:

- On Mondays, a new link will be posted with a brief overview of the week. This information can be found under the "Classwork" tab on Google Classroom.
- As a rule of thumb, dress out everyday unless notified otherwise. Dancers gain strength and build on technique when in class daily.
- Since it's a participation class, the experiential or group component cannot be replicated for "homework." Attendance and punctuality are imperative for safety and student development.
- Students need to be in dance uniform, hair off face, and ready to "take class."
- Class will also consist of dance history, anatomy, or health & nutrition.
- Students need to be in dance uniform, hair off face, and ready to "take class."

Grading

Participation grades will be given randomly each week. Some weeks it may be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; other weeks it may be Tuesday and Thursday, for example. The point of the randomness is that students are prepared all of the time. Participation includes discussion, participation in the class, or working with a partner or in a group. Additionally, other assignments and projects will be assigned.

If students must not participate for a medical reason (and have a doctor's note), dancers will be required to observe and script class or complete an alternate assignment to receive *some* credit. Excessive absences/tardies will negatively affect the student's grade as it is a "participation class."

Absences

Due to the nature of our school, students may be out of class for outside performances, auditions, and rehearsals; however, it is expected that students communicate with the instructor BEFORE the absence, not after the absence (unless the absence was due to unforeseen illness or emergency). Regarding non-school related auditions, performances, competitions & such, students can fill out a "Performing Arts Absence Request" form & submit to the office prior to the absence. If this is turned in with appropriate documentation in a timely manner, the performing arts-related absence does not count against the student.

Required Performances

All students taking dance at PAPA will perform in Spring Dance Concert 2024 at National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Dates are accurate. Times may be adjusted slightly, but specific info will be sent home prior to.

March 5 Tech 8am - 4pm @ NHCC

March 6 Tech 8am - 4pm @ NHCC

March 7 Show 7 - 9pm @ NHCC Call is at 6:00pm. (Students will be at school in class for a regular school day)

March 8 Show 7 - 9pm @ NHCC Call is at 6:00pm (Students will be at school in class for a regular school day)

March 9 Show 2 - 4pm @ NHCC

Dance Uniform

In general, dance uniform is fitted, all-black clothing that does not impede movement:

For all guys, gals, and non-binary pals. . .

- Form-fitting black shirt or black leotard or unitard
- Fitted black pants, tights, or leggings - make sure they don't touch the ground and are ankle-length or above
- Bare feet are preferred (but dance socks like Apolla shocks dance socks or half-soles are oooohhhkaaaaayyyyy).

Dancers need to keep hair off their face (headband, hair ties, bobby pins, barrettes)

A signature page for the Syllabus, Addendum, and Publicity Release/Liability Waiver
need to be signed by a parent by Friday, August 25, 2023
(you keep all paperwork at home, just bring one page back to school)!

Google Classroom codes:

5th period: xwgn6iz

6th period: urcgwfc

7th period: dqutp47

8th period: npchm5l

Google Dance Department code: 4agpkwo

Only turn in ONE signature page per student.

Don't forget to let your instructor know if there are any physical or medical conditions that your instructor might need to know. Note that the instructor might ask for a doctor's release before he/she allows the student to participate. All information will remain confidential.

Public Academy for Performing Arts
Dance Department Policies
Addendum to Dance Class Syllabus

Attendance is of essential importance in any dance class as students must have the daily movement experience necessary in order to gain muscle development and coordination, avoid injury, and make progress in dance. Students are required to bring in a doctor's note if they have an extended absence or cannot participate due to a medical situation. School-related absences will not count against the student, but excessive or unexcused absences WILL adversely affect the student's grade.

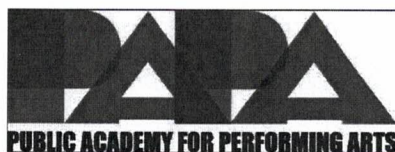
Lateness in a dance class is disruptive and potentially detrimental for the student as their body doesn't get the warm-up necessary for the demanding exercises and movement done in the middle and end of class. Students who arrive more than ten minutes after a technique class has begun may not participate in class and will have to complete an observation paper in order to be counted as "present," but will not earn full points for class. Excessive lateness WILL affect the student's grade.

Participation in the Spring Dance Concert is a requirement of all dance classes. Spring Dance Concert dates are given at the start of the semester and on the PAPA website so that plans can be made accordingly. Students with injury (i.e. a broken leg, recent surgery) may be given an alternate activity so that their grade does not suffer. However, students who are consistently late or chronically absent may revoke their performance privileges and will consequently have a lowered grade.

Placement into classes are by audition and/or teacher recommendation. Placement into a class level isn't necessarily contingent on a student's completion of a level, but rather the students' growth and development in class based on their level of physical fitness prior to entering the class, their supplemental training outside of class as well as their dedication to the class. Additionally, as each student develops differently, the knowledge gained, the experience learned, and the self-development attained should always take precedence over grades.

Corrective feedback during dance class is a regular part of class. Comments are meant to be constructive in order to help students improve various elements of their dance development. As dance is physical activity, corrections are physical as well. If the student is uncomfortable being corrected by physical contact please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Dance attire must be appropriate to the class he/she is taking (see dance syllabus for specifics) so that the instructor can see the placement of the student's body for proper alignment and development. Incorrect placement is difficult to assess in non-dance clothing, thus incorrectly executed may cause injury.



Ballet | Contemporary | Flamenco | Hip-Hop | Jazz | Dance for Musical Theatre

DANCE DEPARTMENT

PUBLICITY AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Publicity Release: I authorize the use of my child's name and photo image in direct conjunction with publicity materials associated with the promotion of Public Academy for the Performing Arts (PAPA). I recognize that said materials are the property of PAPA to be used at the discretion of PAPA including, but not limited to, social media, print media and advertising, press release, feature media/arts articles, radio and television news or promotion. I also waive any claim to royalty or compensation due for name and photo usage.

Liability Waiver/Health Release: I understand that PAPA is not responsible for any injuries sustained during class or rehearsal on or off the campus, including while taking online dance classes. I also understand that teachers may make physical contact with students for the purpose of correction during in-class instruction. I do hereby release and hold harmless PAPA and its staff from any and all liability in the event of an accident incurred while in class or in rehearsal on or off campus. In case of emergency, I authorize PAPA to seek medical assistance for my child. ***I also understand that a doctor's release may be required for the child to participate in class if he/she has or has had any type of health concern.*** We expect all students to exercise caution and mind all rules for safety at all times on and off campus.



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, Flamenco, and/or Musical Theater).

This document also serves as consent to the PUBLICITY and LIABILITY WAIVER and the DANCE DEPARTMENT ADDENDUM

Due: Friday, August 25, 2023

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.

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.
