



Contemporary Dance Ensemble

Instructor: Elisa Radcliffe
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Prep: 3rd Period

Course Description:

This advanced-level course is designed for students with extensive dance experience. The Contemporary Dance Ensemble (CDE) functions within a pre-professional company model, offering dancers rigorous training and performance opportunities. The course aligns with advanced dance standards and requires a high level of effort, discipline, and commitment. Emphasis is placed on performance, student choreography, and continued artistic and technical development.

Goals and Course Objectives:

The goals and objectives of this course are grounded in the National Core Arts Standards in Dance (adopted by NMPED in 2018) and are designed to develop students' dance literacy. The standards are organized around four artistic processes: *Performing*, *Creating*, *Responding*, and *Connecting*.

Students will:

- Apply technical dance skills with accuracy and expression in complex choreography, whether performing solo, in partnership, or as part of an ensemble.
- Initiate and perform movement phrases with intentional use of energy, dynamics, and musicality.
- Integrate anatomical principles and healthful practices to enhance fluency, efficiency, and safety in technical execution.
- Demonstrate leadership qualities—such as commitment, dependability, responsibility, and cooperation—during rehearsal and performance.
- Consistently model appropriate performance etiquette and professional conduct in class, rehearsals, and performance settings.
- Experiment with movement and take creative risks to discover and develop a personal artistic voice.
- Integrate personal movement preferences and strengths to choreograph original work that communicates a clear artistic intent.
- Collaborate with peers to develop and implement a rehearsal plan that supports performance goals.
- Use the Critical Response Process (CRP) to respond to works in progress and finished work.
- Demonstrate the ability to record, retrieve, and archive dance works.
- Examine how significant dance works relate to those of history or other cultures.

Grading System:

Grading serves as the formal record of each student's overall learning and progress. Because dance is a performance-based art form, skill development and the rehearsal process are essential to evaluating student growth. As such, consistent attendance is the most critical factor in successfully completing the course. Additional components contributing to the final grade include creative projects, written assignments, performances, and assessments. Accommodations and modifications will be provided in accordance with students' IEPs and 504 Plans.

Term Grade Breakdown:

30% = Performances/Skill Assessments
30% = Rehearsal Process/Skill Development
20% = Assignments
20% = Written Assessments

Grading System:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 50-59%

Required Materials:

Each student is required to bring dance clothes to class every day. Clothes must be nonrestrictive, allowing the student to move freely. This may include t-shirts, tank tops, leotards, sweatpants, gym shorts, or leggings/yoga pants.

Required Performances:

All dance students are required to participate in the Spring Dance Concert. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

The Public Academy for Performing Arts Spring Dance Concert

Location: National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tech/Dress Rehearsals:

- Tuesday, March 9, 2027 - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 10, 2027 - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Performances:

- Thursday, March 11, 2027 - Call 5:30 pm | Show 7:00 pm
- Friday, March 12, 2027 - Call 5:30 pm | Show 7:00 pm
- Saturday, March 13, 2027 - Call 12:30 pm | Show 2:00 pm

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class prepared and ready to learn each day. Success in this course is directly related to daily attendance. A large portion of the class is based on classroom activities, and students who miss class, whether excused or unexcused, will have difficulty succeeding.

Medical Excuses:

If a student is unable to participate due to injury or illness, a note must be presented to the instructor. An alternate assignment will be provided to the student, and no points will be deducted for a medical excuse.

Cell Phone Policy:

In accordance with Senate Bill 11 (2025) and guidance from the New Mexico Public Education Department, wireless communication devices must be silenced and kept out of sight (such as in a backpack or locker) from arrival on campus until the dismissal bell. If you need to contact your student during school hours, please call the front office at 505-830-3128 or email info@paparts.org. Students may contact families from the front office during lunch/passing periods. Students will use school-issued Chromebooks for all learning activities. A wireless communication device is any portable electronic device capable of transmitting voice, text, or data, including but not limited to: cell phones and smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptop computers, gaming devices, and wireless headphones. Students using a wireless communication device without permission will be required to surrender the device to the front office, where it must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Google Classroom Code: owpq54ut