

Alma College
Department of Theatre and Dance

**Course Syllabus: THD 380-02 Dance Pedagogy
Winter 2016**

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Office: Heritage Center
Office Hours: M 12:30-2:30 PM, W 1:30-
2:30 PM, T/Th 4:00-5:00 PM
Class Location: Design Lab & Dance Studio

Course Description/Content: This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of pedagogical principles as they pertain to teaching dance in multiple environments. Emphasis will be placed on the private studio setting, but K12 and other situations will also be addressed. Students will analyze the principles, methods, philosophies, materials and practice of teaching dance. Readings in current research in the field will develop an enhanced understanding of dance pedagogy. Students will have the opportunity to teach and receive feedback from the instructor and peers.

Course Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of motor learning and control as it pertains to dance pedagogy.
- Understand and articulate the principles of dance.
- Demonstrate understanding of the development, progression, and structure of dance class planning.
- Experience teaching in a group of peers and in front of the instructor.
- Develop an individual teaching style and philosophy.

Required Text: *Motor Learning and Control for Dance* by Donna H. Krasnow and M. Virginia Wilmerding. Additional readings will be provided in class, or on Moodle.

Policies

Cell Phone Policy: Absolutely no cell phone use during class time. Be sure your phones (or other noise making devices) are powered off, or silenced before class begins. Using your cell phone in class will result in being asked to leave and zero credit awarded for any assignments that day. If your phone rings during class you will be asked to stand up and perform a dance solo to the accompaniment of your phone.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty: Honesty in academic endeavors is a central tenet of the Alma College philosophy. The complete college policy may be found at:
<http://www.alma.edu/student-handbook/section-ii/academic-dishonesty-policy/>

Students must properly cite all sources within their assignments, writing, and research. Failing to properly cite material is considered plagiarism and serious or repeated issues will result in consequences, up to and including failing the course. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Provost's Office.

Writing Center: "The Writing Center is Alma College's free writing resource. We work one-on-one with students to help with the writing process in any discipline, ranging from early brainstorming to editing and focusing on argumentation, style, grammar and source use. It is our mission to help Alma College writers find their maximum potential in each assignment." - <http://www.alma.edu/academics/support/writing-center/index.php/>

Assignments

Attendance & Engagement: Students are required to attend all classes on time and prepared to actively participate. Much of this course will follow a seminar format, meaning students must read and complete assignments in order to participate in the day's activities. Earnestly engaging in topic discussions is a characteristic of a student that will excel in this course.

Digital Resource Folder: Students will gather resources pertinent to the field of teaching dance (examples: fitness, nutrition, weight training, injury prevention, anatomy charts, ballet and modern syllabi, etc.) and organize as future teaching tools.

Evaluation Tool: Design a tool (rubric) to evaluate a classroom teaching experience, breakdown of skills, use of imagery, teacher effectiveness (the presentation of material), time, space and flow, choice of accompaniment, and overall quality of classroom experience for students.

Teaching Philosophy: Write a personal teaching philosophy for your approach to dance pedagogy. Take into consideration the various research, theories, methods, and philosophies covered in this course when outlining what the focus of your approach will be.

Class Observation/Evaluation: Observation of dance class(es) (arranged with instructor) and corresponding written evaluation of class and teacher's pedagogical methods.

Teaching Experiences & Lesson Plans: Students will design and teach several short assignments and two "classroom" lessons. Each teaching experience will require a lesson plan and musical accompaniment.

Event Ushering: Students must usher one event in the Heritage Center during the semester (approximately 3 hours). Sign up for an event at the Box Office any time during the first two weeks of class.

Final Grade Evaluation:

Attendance & Engagement 20%

Digital Resource Folder 5%

Evaluation Tool 5%

Teaching Philosophy 10%

Class Observation/Evaluation 10%

Teaching Experiences & Lesson Plans 50%

Important Dates:

Student Choreography Concert – January 21, 22, 23, 24

MELT Concert – February 12, 13

Winter Term Recess – February 27 – March 6

ACDA Conference – March 5 – 8

Spring Dance Concert – March 18, 19, 20

Final Exam – April 18 7:00-9:00 PM

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Alma College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability and you would like to request accommodations, please see Nate Payovich (payovichn@alma.edu) in the Center for Student Opportunity (Tyler-Van Dusen) so that such accommodations can be considered. If you currently receive accommodation letters from the CSO, please meet with me outside of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.