

**Course Syllabus**  
**Modern Dance I**  
**Fall 2012**

Course:	<b>Dance 110-001, Modern Dance I</b>	Class Hours:	<b>T/H 5:00-6:20 P.M.</b>
Instructor:	<b>Crystal Fullmer</b>	Office Hours:	<b>By Appointment</b>
Email:	<b>cfullmer@unm.edu</b>	Phone:	<b>xxx-xxx-xxxx</b>

**Course Description:** This course is an exploration of beginning level modern dance and the study of modern dance technique. The class will emphasize modern dance movement skills and vocabulary; rhythmic fundamentals; and musicality. A variety of modern dance styles will be introduced, which may include Humphrey, Weidman and Graham techniques in addition to Laban concepts and Bartenieff Fundamentals. The class periods will include warm-up and technique/strength building, across the floor phrases and original dance phrases. The movements taught in this class are designed to give students the proper alignment, strength, balance and flexibility for beginning modern dance class work.

**Course Objectives:**

- Develop and understand modern dance skills and vocabulary.
- Improve skeletal alignment.
- Gain spatial awareness for personal movement and group movement.
- Improve personal body movement efficiency and precision.
- Increase awareness of focus and direction.
- Gain a beginning level understanding of modern dance styles and history.
- Enjoy full body movement and the experience of moving through space with others.

**Dress Code:** Hair must be kept away from the face and secured. No dangling or bulky jewelry. Leotards, unitards, jazz pants, tights, fitted T-shirts, shorts, yoga-style clothing are recommended. (Shirts that cover the shoulders are suggested.) Any appropriate dance attire for ample movement during the class which allows body lines to be easily visible for correcting and perfecting technique and posture. Modern dance is performed barefoot. If your clothing is not appropriate the instructor will discuss it with you and make suggestions for what is appropriate. *Street clothes are not allowed. No gum chewing in class.*

**Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance and participation is **absolutely mandatory**. Students are required to attend every session on time and ready to work. Three tardies will equal an absence. (Tardiness is disruptive to class and is unhealthy for a proper warm-up.) Three unexcused absences will drop your grade one level, six unexcused absences will fail you from the course. You are allowed one unexcused absence per semester. *You cannot make up unexcused absences.*

If you are ill or injured, or have a family emergency and miss six classes, you will be dropped from the course with an Incomplete or a withdrawal with a grade of either pass or fail, depending on your status in the class at that time. You can make up excused absences by arrangement with the instructor.

**Observations:** If you need to observe a class due to injury or illness, you must hand in an observation paper for that day at the end of class, or you will be marked absent. The topic of your written observation will be determined by the instructor at the beginning of class.

**Injury:** If you think you are injured during class, stop dancing immediately and bring it to the attention of the instructor. If necessary, apply ice and elevate in the injured area for the remainder of class.

### **Reading & Writing Assignments:**

1. **What is Modern Dance?** There will be a series of short readings provided to students in the first three weeks of class. These readings will be combined with research students do individually to write a paper that answers this question: What is modern dance? This paper should have standard formatting (typed, 12 point font, double spaced, 1" margins, etc.) and be no shorter than three pages and no longer than 6 pages. **Assignment Due: October 16, at the beginning of class, no exceptions. \***
2. **Written Response to Student Choreographer's Showcase: Points in Space.** Students will be required to attend one performance of the Student Choreographer's Showcase (dates below) and write on **one** dance which stands out to them. Students will discuss the way in which performers dance and the choreography based on knowledge gained through work in the course. **Assignment Due: November 6, at the beginning of class, no exceptions. \***

*\* Note: No late papers or emailed papers will be accepted.*

### **Midterm & Final Exams:**

- October 16 & 18 in-class evaluation and movement exams. Content to be determined in the first four weeks of class.
- December 4 & 6 in class evaluation and movement exams. Content to be determined between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> weeks of class.

### **Evaluation:**

60% Attendance & Participation

15% Written assignments

10% Degree of personal progress and concentration

15% Midterm & Final Exams

### **Important Dates:**

- *Journeys* – September 14, 15, 16 @ North Fourth Arts Center ( [www.vsartsnm.org](http://www.vsartsnm.org) ).
- *A Family Affair*, UNM Friends of Dance Alumni Show – October 5, 6 @ 7 PM. Carlisle Gym South Arena.
- *Points in Space*, Student Choreography Showcase – October 19, 20, 27 @ 7:30 PM & October 21, 28 @ 2 PM. Carlisle Gym South Arena