San José State University  
School of Music and Dance  

Topics in Modern Dance I  

Emphasis on the element of time at the beginning level  
Dance 40A, Section 1, (DANC 47117, KIN 49219)  

FALL 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Maria Basile  
Office Location: WSQ 104 Main Office- messages may be left in my box.  
WSQ 206D Personal  
Telephone: 408-924-5041  
Email: mcbasile@hotmail.com (best) OR maria.basile@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Class Days/Time: TTH 7:30–8:50 am  
Classroom: WSQ 201  
Prerequisites: N/A  
GE/SJSU Studies Category:  
Course Fees: N/A  

MIDTERM: October 29,  
FINAL: START Final December 3+8, thru Tuesday December 15, 7:15 am

Course Description

This course is beginning modern dance technique with an emphasis on the element of time. The purpose of this course is to train students technically and expand their knowledge of modern dance. Students will develop an understanding of the element of time at the beginning level. Class will consist of technical work, focusing on body alignment and organization, movement proficiency and execution, and movement in relationship to time (musicality, rhythm, tempo). Class structure will include center preparation and training, progressions across the floor and center work.
Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students will develop their dance technique to the beginning level. They will develop an understanding of the element of time in modern dance. Students will demonstrate a beginning integration of musicality. They will execute phrasing with varying tempos, use of accent and mixed meter. Students will achieve body organization and alignment. They will also gain strength and increase range. They will work on movement quality, initiation and intention. Students will understand dance as movement. They will be able to demonstrate direct versus indirect movement, action versus inaction, and will understand movement and levels in relationship to gravity. They will execute efficiency in locomotor movement.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Element of Time: Successfully demonstrates an understanding, integration and execution of the element of time in modern dance technique. Can perform movement with a sense of musicality. Can execute phrasing with varying tempo, accent, acceleration, deceleration, momentum, speed and accuracy

Modern I: should demonstrate an understanding of the element of time 25% of the time

Core support: Ability to engage core in a way that supports spine, trunk, pelvis and can allow for efficiency in technique.

Modern I: should demonstrate mastery of core support 25% of the time

Alignment: Correct alignment of spine (with natural curve in lower back), neutral pelvis, lengthened abdominals, arms engaged into back, ability to stretch backs of legs, understanding of and ability to engage and maintain turnout from hip joint.

Modern I: should demonstrate correct alignment 25% of the time.

Strength: Dancers should demonstrate necessary strength to maintain alignment, avoid injury and to allow for dynamic movement.

Modern I: begin to demonstrate strength

Flexibility: Dancers should have a degree of flexibility to allow for range of movement and to satisfy dance aesthetic. Flexibility is required throughout the body, but particularly in hip joints, hip flexors, hamstrings, quadriceps, ankle joint, and spine.

Modern I: beginning range of flexibility in some areas

Coordination/ Movement mechanics: Ability to coordinate different parts of the body at the same time in a variety of ways and within a sense of phrasing. Ability to integrate movement within the entire body

Modern I: 25% of the time
Expressive phrasing: Ability to connect with accompanying music, interpret it, or phrase and add movement dynamics that relate to music even in the absence of accompaniment, in a way that is unique or interesting.
Modern I: 25% of the time

Kinesthetic awareness: Ability to coordinate movement and to feel and be aware of one’s body in space and time.
Modern I: 25% of the time

Knowledge of movement material and vocabulary: Ability to memorize, conceptually understand and demonstrate movement material and vocabulary given in the class.
Modern I: Should demonstrate knowledge of movement material 25% of the time during class sessions and 100% of the time during graded exams.

Positive Attitude, respect, maturity, capacity to accept challenges self cueing
Modern I: Should demonstrate appropriate class etiquette and self-cuing by midway through the semester.

Ability to pick up and adapt material quickly
Modern I: 25% of the time

Spatial Awareness: Successfully demonstrates a deep understanding, integration and execution of the element of space. Can clearly perform movement with relationship and connection to use of levels, planes, directions and facings.
Modern I: 25% of the time

Course Requirements and Assignments

Attendance of four concerts is a requirement for this course. Failure to meet this requirement will result in losing points. One missed concert will result in losing 6 points (6% of overall grade). An additional 3 points will be lost with each additional missed concert. Please see attached performance schedule for specific dates, times, and costs of scheduled concerts. You will receive a performance card that will need to be stamped (in/out) at each concert, and then turned in at the end of the semester. Please observe deadlines for turning in these performance cards. You are required to remain for the entire concert. Leaving before the conclusion of the concert constitutes Academic Dishonesty. If you are participating in a required concert you must attend an additional, instructor-approved concert. Students are expected to refer to the green sheet and the concert calendar at the beginning of the semester. It is Dance Program policy that all students must attend the concerts assigned on this green sheet or lose credit. DO NOT ASK IF YOU MAY ATTEND AN ALTERNATE CONCERT FOR CREDIT. There will be no exceptions for non-attendance except for those who may be performing in a required concert. At the beginning of the semester these students should speak with their instructors. Remember, that students who are performing need not make up one concert in which they are involved, but must make up a second concert, should they performing in two concerts.
**Required Attire**

Dancers must dress appropriately. Women should wear SOLID colors: leotard and tights or fitted dance shorts or leggings. Men should wear SOLID colors: fitted shirts and pants or athletic leggings. No oversized clothing should be worn. Clothing resembling street clothes will not be allowed. Hair should be neatly pulled back away from the face. No hats should be worn. No perfumes or cologne. No gum, no jewelry. (small earrings ok). Dance attire can be purchased online at [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com), (I have a teacher’s ID number you can use for a 10% discount. TP 67016) or [www.dancewearsolutions.com](http://www.dancewearsolutions.com) or at the following dance supply stores: San Jose Dancewear and Costume, Capezio.

**Grading Policy**

This course is a technique class. Therefore, dancers will be graded on a daily basis on their learning outcomes and must demonstrate growth and development throughout the term. Students will be graded on alignment, core support, strength, flexibility, movement mechanics, coordination, full body integration, ability to learn quickly, kinesthetic and conceptual awareness, and knowledge of ballet vocabulary. It is only through consistent attendance and participation that students can gain the necessary skills to progress and succeed. Students’ skills will be continuously evaluated during class projects. An absence will result in losing that day’s evaluation grade, lowering the overall grade. Students may make up a maximum of two excused absences by attending instructor-approved SJSU classes. A student missing more than two class meetings, for any reason, must meet with the instructor to discuss the viability of continuing the course. Students that are injured are required to notify the instructor of the injury and must still attend the entire class to take notes if at all possible. Any injured student who cannot participate in class more than twice will begin to lose daily credit. Max 2 class observations.

**Evaluation**

0-50 skill level (determined during daily class projects)

0-20 midterm exam

0-30 final exam

Possible points 100

94% and above- A
93%-90%- A-
89%-87%- B+
86%-84%- B
83%-80%-B-
79%-77%- C+
76%-74%- C
73%-70%- C-
69%-67%- D+
66%-64%- D
Below 60%- F

NOTE that University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”
Classroom Protocol

- No Street shoes, food, or drinks allowed in the studios (other than water).
- No dance shoes or bare feet in the hallways.
- Bring your own lock for the lockers. Please vacate the locker after your class.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class.
- Students that arrive late must ask the instructor’s permission to join the class. It is not acceptable to enter once class once it has begun without instructor consent. If more than fifteen minutes late, students should stay and take notes.
- Students are responsible for arranging ballet barres before the start of class if applicable.

Physical Education

This course may count once as one unit towards the graduation requirement.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/luatedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not
publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).
Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center (Optional)**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
### Topics in Modern Dance I, Danc 40A, FALL 2015

*List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.*

#### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet and talk about course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Full body movement introduction, warm up, low level movements, traveling across the floor, and elevation movements with timing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressions of the above…</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressions of the above…</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressions of the above…</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Start Mid-term Practicle Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 29</td>
<td>MID-TERM PRACTICAL EXAM during regular class time</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce new concepts of full body movement introduction, warm up, low level movements, traveling across the floor, elevation movements with timing.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressions of the above…</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce partnering on the basic level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progressions of partnering on the basic level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 3</td>
<td>Review for FINAL and Begin FINAL EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tues. Dec. 8</td>
<td>Continue FINAL EXAM during regular class time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Tues. Dec. 15</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM finishes 7:15 to 9:30 am, WSQ 201</td>
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School of Music and Dance

Dance Performance Calendar 2015-16

Sept. 30  Choreography II Showing 1:45 PM WSQ 204
Informal presentation of site-specific projects in choreography.
Free

Oct. 16-17  sjDANCEco in Concert* at the California Theatre 8PM
General $35/Students $20

October 29-31 University Dance Theatre*
Thursday & Friday at 7PM, Saturday at 2pm
General $20/Students $12, Seniors $10

Nov. 4  Choreography II Showing 1:45PM WSQ 204
Informal presentation of classroom projects in choreography
Free

Nov. 20-21  sjDANCEco’s Choreo Project Awards*
Friday 7 PM-Saturday 2:30 and 7PM
Curated concert of original works by professionals
General $20/Students, Seniors $15

Dec. 3-5  Images in Dance*
7PM
Concert of works by advanced students.
General $15/Students, Seniors $10

Dec. 7  Choreography II Final Projects 7PM WSQ 204
Works by second semester choreography students
Tues, TR class and Wed. MW class
General $10/Students, Seniors Free

*Italicized concerts (four) are required for SJSU students in Dance Technique classes.