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# THE206 : Dance in World Cultures

## General Information

### Author (s):

- Stephen Decker

### Course Code (CB01) :

THE20

### Course Title (CB02) :

Dance in World Cultures

### Department:

Theatre Arts

### Proposal Start:

Fall Term 2019

### Course Description:

This course will explore dance around the world and how it interacts with customs and beliefs within specific cultural groups. The course explores dance as an expression of religious worship, social order, power, cultural mores, as a theatrical art form, and as an emblem of cultural identity.

## Specifications

### Methods of Instruction

### Methods of Instruction Rationale

Lecture No value

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## Assignments

Writing Assignment -

1. One research paper (minimum 1,000 words), with a focus on cultural beliefs and how they fit into society or how different cultures developed in the modern society and how much was lost.
2. One written critique of live dance performance (minimum 600 words).

Assignments -

1. Discuss the use of myth and ritual in dance within a specified culture.
2. Choose an important figure in dance and identify various aspects of the culture that may have influenced that person to create his/her particular contribution and how his/her contribution impacted the specific cultures as well as other cultures around the world. The culture can influence the society and societal changes for more equity.
3. Develop a hypothesis as to why dance is so powerful within certain world cultures and why in other cultures dance has little significance.

Reading Assignment -

A variety of handouts related to world dance will be distributed over the course of the semester. Students will be asked to read and respond to this reading material as well as assignments that coincide with the course textbook.

Outside Assignments -

1. Required reading as indicated in syllabus.
2. Completion of written assignments.
3. Attendance at one live dance performance.

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Darlene O'Cadiz

Dance and Cultural Diversity

Cognella INC

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**May want to add a book on historical cultural diversity that would cover more than dance.**

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

**Course Objectives**

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Recall and define the characteristic styles of dance within various cultures.

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Evaluate how various forms of dance interact with other aspects of **society and how they react to current events.** ~~a given culture.~~

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Develop an appreciation and respect for diversity related to dance within world cultures.

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Discuss how a unique style within a particular cultural group is influenced by and in turn influences all other aspects of culture such as religious practices, politics, economics, family and social life.

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Analyze similarities and differences of dance idioms, styles, and performance and choreographic techniques.

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Develop an awareness of why people dance and how specific dances of different cultures speak to those cultures' need to dance.

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## CSLOs

**Identify the characteristic styles and historical evolution of dance within the cultural groups presented in class.**

Expected SLO Performance: 75.0

**Compare the differences and similarities of dance characteristics and purpose within the cultural groups introduced in class, how they developed over time and how they affect that cultural group and other cultural groups of today.**

Expected SLO Performance: 75.0

**Analyze and explain the ways in which dance interacts with such things as politics, economics, religious beliefs and practices and social values within the cultural groups introduced in class.** Expected SLO Performance: 75.0

## Outline

### Course Outline

1. Elements of dance – body, space, time, movement
2. Exploration of why people dance
3. The power of dance – How is dance powerful?
  1. Dance unites people for a common cause with a common language.
  2. Dance is sometimes used to connect with the spiritual realm.
  3. Dance is therapeutic – relieves stress, promotes fitness, helps people cope through personal expression. Dance allows us to express our joy, fears, anger, hope, and so on in ways that words cannot express.
  4. Dance is a theatrical art form which can transform the viewer and the person performing it.
  5. Dance helps to keep cultural traditions alive.
  6. Dance is often an emblem of cultural identity.
  7. To honor or celebrate important events such as births, deaths, marriages, etc.
4. Dance in the context of spirituality and religion
  1. Western/European
    1. Characteristics – use of the body, accompaniment, gender roles, purpose, etc.
    2. Christianity and issues related to the moving body
    3. Greek and Roman dance
    4. Dance of Death
    5. Labyrinth dances
    6. Pagan dances
    7. Liturgical dance
    8. The Shakers
  2. Native dance of North America
    1. Characteristics – use of the body, accompaniment, gender roles, purpose, etc.
    2. Native peoples of the Northwest Coast: potlatch and potlatch prohibition, masked dances, residential schools, European diseases, Hamatsa Dance
    3. Plains Indians – Sun Dance, Ghost Dance
    4. Southwest – Hopi Snake Dance
    5. California – Pomo Bole Maru
    6. Native American Pow wows
    7. Mexico - Aztec dances
  3. Africa
    1. Characteristics – use of the body, accompaniment, gender roles, purpose, etc.
    2. Traditional dances such as Egungun, Oshun, Sango, etc.
    3. Masked dances of Burkina Faso
    4. Impact of Christianity on African religious dance traditions
    5. Fusion of African and Christian traditions as expressed through spiritual dance
  4. India
    1. Characteristics – use of the body, accompaniment, gender roles, purpose, etc.
    2. Traditional dances such as Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Ottan Tullal, Pullavas

3. Discipline and technique – codified mudras (hand movements), facial expressions, rhythmic patterns, eye movements, etc.
4. Hinduism/Sanskrit
5. Masking/makeup traditions
6. Costumes
5. Court Dance - Dance as an expression of order and power
  1. Africa – Asante people and the Asantehene (Chief), who must be a great dancer
  2. Europe – King Louis XIV and his royal court – A great dancer and the father of ballet.
  3. Indonesia – Bedoyo
  4. Japan – Bugaku
6. Social dance as a mirror of society within specific cultures at a specific time in history
  1. Europe
    1. Characteristics – gender roles, use of the body, purpose, cultural implications
    2. Christian influence
    3. Ballroom dances –waltz, quadrilles, minuet, etc.
    4. Country dances
    5. Pagan dance
    6. Renaissance Dance
  2. United States
    1. Characteristics – gender roles, use of the body, purpose, cultural implications
    2. European, African, and Latin influences
    3. African influences – Cake walk, juba, step dancing, animal dances
    4. The Roaring 20's – Charleston
    5. 1930's and 40's – Lindy Hop, swing, jitterbug, jazz era
    6. 1950's – rock and roll and Elvis
    7. 1960's – hippies and free expression
    8. 1970's – Disco dancing
    9. 1980's and 90's – hip hop, break dancing, Michael Jackson
  3. South America – Brazil
    1. Characteristics – gender roles, use of the body, purpose, cultural implications
    2. African influences
    3. Candomble
    4. Samba
    5. Carnival
    6. Capoiera
  4. Polynesia
    1. Characteristics – gender roles, use of the body, purpose, cultural implications
    2. Connection to sexuality/sensuality
  5. Morocco
    1. Characteristics – gender roles, use of the body, purpose, cultural implications
    2. Connection to religion – Muslim gender roles and beliefs
7. Dance as a theatrical art form
  1. Classical Dance
    1. Ballet (Europe)
      1. Connection to European court dance
      2. Louis the XIV and the Academy of Dance and Music
      3. Romanic era – Taglioni, Elsler, Gautier
      4. Classical era – Petipa and the Russian Ballet
      5. Neo-classical period – Ballet Russe
      6. Gender roles
      7. Technical virtuosity
    2. Kabuki (Japan)
      1. Connection to Japanese traditions and gender roles
      2. Technical virtuosity
  2. Modern Dance - Formative years - America and Germany
    1. Isadora Duncan – movements from nature, free expression, women's liberation
    2. Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn – ethnic influences

3. Martha Graham – artistic contributions and a new movement vocabulary
4. Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman artistic contributions and a new movement vocabulary
5. Mary Wigman - German expressionism
6. Contemporary pioneers
  1. George Balanchine
  2. Post Modern Dance - Rainer, Gordon, Patton
  3. Merce Cunningham
  4. Alwin Nikolais
  5. Twyla Tharp
  6. Paul Taylor
  7. Alvin Ailey
  8. Mark Morris
  9. Bill T. Jones
3. Jazz dance, tap, and the American musical theatre
  1. Significant choreographers and performers
    1. Gene Kelly – Singin' In the Rain
    2. Jerome Robbins – West Side Story
    3. Bob Fosse – Chicago, Pippin, All That Jazz
    4. Agnes DeMille - Oklahoma
    5. Garth Fagan – Lion King
    6. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson
    7. Gregory Hines
    8. Savion Glover