

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE
Department of Dance

Student Syllabus for Dance 264
Music for Dancers

Instructor: _____ Office: _____ Office Hours: _____
BYU Phone: _____
E-mail: _____ and by appointment

1. Catalog Course Description:

Basic music notation, simple and complex rhythmic patterns, and poly-rhythms; score analysis, musical styles, jazz history.

Welcome to Music for Dancers. This course will increase your musical sensitivity to meter, tempo, pulse and subdivision as you learn the role of rhythm in music. A deep understanding of the role rhythm plays in dance will create a positive impact on your dancing and choreography. The emphasis in this course will be how to become a better dancer through a greater understanding of rhythm, articulation, dynamics, phrasing and musical style. You will have a greater understanding of the history of Jazz music

2. Prerequisite(s):

3. Course Alignment with University and Program Mission and Aims:

4. Required Course Materials:

“Music for Dancers” class packet and compact disc

5. Course Intended Learning Outcomes:

- *Understand* music notation by reading and notating rhythm patterns.
- *Analyze* the stylistic characteristics of African music
- *Understand* how to group and conduct odd meter music and how to conduct mixed meter music by practicing and demonstrating musical exercises.
- *Understand* binary and ternary rhythm and meter by drumming and vocalizing rhythm patterns.
- *Analyze* the stylistic characteristics of Jazz music by studying and listening to music.
- Demonstrate musical proficiency by performing individual solos and ensemble music on an African djembe drum.

6. Learning Activities/Course Requirement:

This course presents rigorous rhythmic training as a means to improve dance technique and musicality. A dancers sense of pulse and rhythmic subdivision will be enhanced through learning and performing music on a djembe drum.

Dancers will have a better understanding of Jazz music styles through reading and listening to jazz music.

7. Assessment Procedures:

Grading Formula

Evaluations

Evaluations are based on the students daily readiness and performance. Aural dictation, Jazz history knowledge, performing body percussion and djembe exercises will be included in the evaluations.

Exam 1

For this exam you will be expected to notate rhythm examples and vocalize the rhythms on a sheet of music. The first section called aural dictation is worth 40% of the exam grade. The vocalization section is a sheet of rhythms that will be practiced in class and at home. This section is worth 20% of the exam grade. The students will also play the djembe warmup exercises 1-10.

Exam 2

For this exam you will vocalize odd meter rhythms, and identify odd meter music. You will play the djembe adzida rhythms and perform a 4-part African ensemble piece of music.

Exam 3

This exam consists of performing African 6/8 djembe rhythms, and a short djembe improvisation based on 8th and 16th notes. This test will be played on a djembe drum.

Final Exam

For this exam you will perform a 4-part African ensemble piece of music and play a short improvisation. Students will be tested on Jazz music styles. This will include short essay, matching jazz artists and matching jazz music listening examples.

Grades in this course will be based on the following assignments.

| Assignments | Points Possible |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Daily Instructor Evaluations | 35 |
| 3 Exams (15 pts. each) | 45 |
| Final Exam | 20 |
| Total | 100 |

Grades will be determined by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible.

Letter grades are assigned based on the following grade breakdown.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| A = 93.6% - 100% | A- = 90% - 93.5% | B+ = 86.6% - 89.9% |
| B = 83.6% - 86.5% | B- = 80% - 83.5% | C+ = 76.6% - 79.9% |
| C = 73.6% - 76.5% | C- = 70% - 73.5% | D+ = 66.6% - 69.9% |
| D = 63.6% - 66.5% | D- = 60% - 63.5% | |

8. Course Policies

Attendance

Students are permitted 2 absences for illnesses, personal reasons. Absence for University approved performing group tours and performances will count as a 1/2 absence per class. Due to the nature of this class missed classes can not be made up. Please come to class prepared after an absence.

Reporting Illnesses or Emergencies

Call me in my office or at home to explain your illness or emergency. If I am not there, please leave a message.

Late Work

Assignments will be due at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated. Assignments turned in after the due date will be penalized (one grade per late day). Assignments a week late will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

- This class will require two to four hours of class work each week. This class will be taught using group activities, assessments, discussions and lectures. Assignments and assessments will support students in accomplishing the intended learning outcomes.
- Assessments will consist of activities designed to evaluate your knowledge and abilities to accomplish the intended learning outcomes. There will be different types of assessments: performing, working in groups, creating and writing. Please take advantage of all assessment opportunities you will have in this course by using the assessments to reflect on the depth and value of your learning.

Participation:

- Readiness to learn means that you will come to class with questions and insights to offer others and be prepared to discuss the relevance and application of the course materials.

Characteristics of Students Who Excel in this Course

- Come to class with reading assignments finished.
- Bring thoughtful questions to class for discussions.
- Solicit suggestions from peers when working on assigned projects.
- Discuss and share technical information with peers.

Recommended Study Habits:

- Understand that music is a language in which you must learn to vocalize, notate, and read.

- I suggest that you practice 15–20 minutes a day instead of 30-60 minutes twice a week
- Get the phone numbers of at least two classmates that you can contact if you have questions or need help studying.
- I suggest you form small study groups to practice for exams.

9. University Policies

Preventing Sexual Harassment:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or visit the website at <http://www.byu.edu/hr/eo/info.html>.

Students with Disabilities:

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or visit the website at <http://www.byu.edu/hr/eo/info.html>.

Church Educational System Honor Code:

Brigham Young University exists to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That atmosphere is created and preserved through commitment to conduct that reflects those ideals and principles. Observance of such standards is a condition of employment and admission. Those individuals who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are also expected to maintain the same standards of conduct, except church attendance. If you have any concerns, please contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2848. For more information on the following related topics, visit the Honor Code office website at http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm

- Be honest
- Live a chaste and virtuous life
- Obey the law and all campus policies
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse
- Observe Dress and Grooming Standards
- Participate regularly in church services
- Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the BYU Honor Code
- Academic Honesty
- Dress and Grooming Standards