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Spring 1-2016

DANC 298.01: Internship - Children's Dance

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Children's Dance Internship
DANC 298.01
1 Credit
School of Theatre & Dance
Thursday 3:30-6:00pm PARTV 035

Instructor Information:

Laurel Sears
laurel.sears@umontana.edu
Available by appointment

Children's Dance Internship offers University of Montana students an introduction to pedagogical methods of teaching dance and creative movement to children. Students will have the opportunity to observe, plan, and teach creative movement /dance classes for children aged 3-10. Students will also receive planning support and feedback about teaching methods from peers and the instructor of the course. The objective of this course is to create a unique and rich creative movement/ dance learning experience for children in the Missoula community while providing University students hands on experience in the dance classroom.

UM Children's Dance Classes

Spring Semester: February 4-May 5 (no classes April 7)

- Creative Movement I, ages 3 1/2 to 4, Thursdays 3:30-4:00
- Creative Movement II, ages 5-6, Thursdays 4:15-5:00
- Creative and Modern Dance, ages 7-10, Thursdays 5:15-6:00

Required Text

The Language of Movement

An Idea Book for Teachers

By Karen Kaufmann

Available at the University of Montana Bookstore

Course Work

Daily Participation

It is crucial to the success of this class that students attend regularly and participate fully. As a student of Children's Dance Internship you will be an integral part of the learning environment, for the Missoula area children who take the classes and for your growth and experience as a teacher. Your daily participation includes arriving on time, helping to create an inclusive learning environment, fully participating in each section of every class, and being responsive and communicative to children and peers. If you are injured or unwell, you may observe classes and are expected to turn in detailed notes on each section of class to the instructor at the conclusion of class.

For every absence over 2, you will get 3 points (1/3 of a letter grade) deducted from your final grade. You may make up an absence by observing an additional section of Children's Dance.

Initial Observation, 10 points

After observing Children's Dance students will write a 1-2 page paper describing your observations of characteristics and motivations of children in the age range you are interning in. Consider the following:

- What do the children respond well to?
- What motivates them to try in class?
- What excites them?
- When them to retract/withdraw from activities?
- How do they interact socially?
- What movement directives do they appear to respond well to?

You are not expected to write this paper as an expert on child development, rather as an intelligent observer who is interested in how to motivate children and teach a successful dance class.

Journal, 30 points total

As a way to reflect on your experience in this class, you will keep a journal that is specific to this class. You are responsible for purchasing, keeping, and writing in this journal—nothing special, just something approximately 8 ½ by 11" with legible handwriting. Journals will be collected at mid-term and finals week.

For each journal entry consider the following questions:

- What was successful about the class?
- In what area did you perceive growth or learning in the children?
- What were the moments of struggle or difficulty in the class?
- What teaching tools did you take away from the class?
- Do you have lesson plan ideas to further concepts introduced in the class?

Lesson Plans

As an intern in children's dance you will be teaching two partial lessons and one full lesson to the age group you are assigned. For each of these teaching experiences, you will turn in a hard copy lesson plan via Moodle by the Friday before you are assigned to teach and will receive feedback by Tuesday of the week you will teach.

Friday: LP Due	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday: Feedback	Wednesday: Integrate Feedback	Thursday: Teaching Day
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Partial Lesson Plan, 15 points each

You will be assigned to teach either the warm up, across the floor, creative/choreographic exercise, or closing activity of the class you are interning. This partial lesson is expected to be about 20 minutes and incorporate understandings gained from class and the assigned readings. Lesson plans should be cohesive and incorporate an understanding of the ability level and flow of the class.

Full Lesson Plan, 30 points

A full lesson plan will incorporate all sections of a creative movement/dance class and should reflect your personal pedagogical style and philosophy. This is your culminating experience in Children's Dance Internship, and should reflect tools and methods you have built throughout the semester.

Final Reflection, 10 points

As a way to reflect upon your experience as an intern in children's dance, you will write an essay discussing your progression through the semester. Describe your views on teaching dance previous to taking the course, and how your concept of teaching creative movement and dance has progressed and evolved through the semester. Define what you believe the elements of teaching a successful creative movement or dance class are. Reflect upon your experience as an observer and a teacher, referencing from your Journal, readings, and experiences from class.

This final essay should be 1 to 2 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, free of grammatical and spelling errors.

UM and Dance Program Policies

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me within the first week of class at laurel.sears@umontana.edu. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

Grading

Initial Observation	10 points
Journal Mid Term	10 points
Journal Final	10 points
Partial LP 1	15 points
Partial LP 2	15 points
Full LP	30 points
<u>Final Reflection</u>	<u>10 points</u>
Total	100 points