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DANC 295.01: Student Teaching - Children's Dance

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Student Teaching: Children's Dance

DANC 295.01

1 Credit Spring 2017

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 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 2-April 27 (11 weeks--no classes March 23, March 30)

- 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 you will be an integral part of the learning environment, both 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 1/3 of a letter grade (or 3 points) deducted from your final grade. You may make up an absence by observing an additional section of Children's Dance.

Initial Observation, 15 points

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

- What do the children respond well to?
- What motivates them to try in class?
- What excites them?
- What appears to cause 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 class that incorporates movement.

Lesson Plans

As a student teacher 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 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.

- **I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR REMINDING YOU OF WHEN YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO TEACH.**
 - For every day your LP is late I will deduct 1 point
 - If you do not teach on your assigned date you will receive a 0 (unless otherwise arranged beforehand)
- By week 2 of the semester a calendar detailing teaching assignments will be available **via Moodle**.

Friday: LP Due	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday: Feedback	Wednesday: Integrate Feedback	Thursday: Teaching Day
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Partial Lesson Plan (2 total), 15 points each

You will be assigned to teach either the warm up/across the floor, or a creative/choreographic exercise of the class you are interning. This partial lesson is expected to be about 22 minutes (15 minutes for the 3-4 class), or half of the class time, and incorporate understandings gained from class and the text for the course: ***The Language of Movement***. Lesson plans should be cohesive and incorporate an understanding of the ability level and flow of the class.

Full Lesson Plan (1 total), 40 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, and should reflect tools and methods you have built throughout the semester.

Final Reflection, 15 points

As a way to reflect upon your experience as a student teacher in children's dance, you will write a reflective paper 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 experiences both teaching and learning in the class. This final essay should be 1 to 2 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, free of grammatical and spelling errors.

For your final reflection consider the following questions:

- What did you perceive as successful about your lesson planning? (consider all 3)
 - Please provide at least 2 specific examples of successful implementation of a lesson plan.
- In what area did you perceive growth or learning in the children?
- What were the moments of struggle or difficulty in the class?
 - How did you respond to those moments?
 - What are some possible responses that could be productive in the future?
- What teaching tools did you take away from the semester?
- Do you have lesson plan ideas for future use, or elements of a class you would do again?

This final paper should be 1 to 2 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, free of grammatical and spelling errors. Feel free to be creative in you writing style.

Grading

Initial Observation	15 points
Partial LP 1	15 points
Partial LP 2	15 points
Full LP	40 points
<u>Final Reflection</u>	<u>15 points</u>
Total	100 points

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
94-100	90-93	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	0-59

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.

Theatre & Dance

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.

NO street shoes are allowed in the dance studio at any time, even carried in-hand. Anyone entering the studio must remove their street shoes **BEFORE** entering and leave them outside the studio. The only shoes permitted in studios are those that have been purchased for the exclusive use of dance in dance studios (with the exclusion of tap shoes, hard-shoe clogs, and flamenco shoes. These should never be worn on Marley floors).
for their shoes and other belongings.

Individuals conce

NO food or drinks (except water in closed bottles) are permitted in the dance studios or theatres.

NOTE: **Locker rentals** are available for any student. The School of Theatre & Dance recommends that students do not leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, dance studios, or theatres as **thefts frequently occur**. Lockers may be rented for \$7/one semester or \$13/two semesters through Dance Program Administrative Associate Teresa Clark (teresa.clark@umontana.edu; office in UMArts Box Office in PARTV Lobby).

Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me, Laurel Sears, within the first 2 weeks of class. 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/>.

Important Registration Dates, Spring 2017

- **January 23:** First day of Spring classes
- **February 10:** Last day to drop, add, or make registration changes on CyberBear
- **March 20 - 24:** Spring Break - no classes
- **April 3:** Last day to drop Spring classes
- **May 5:** Last day of class & last day to make any Spring registration changes
- **May 8 - 12:** Spring final exams begin
- **May 13:** Commencement Ceremonies