

Tompkins Cortland Community College  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: FITN 106**  
**Course Title: Modern Dance**

**Year: 2024-2025**  
**Credit Hours: 1**

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

### **Course Description**

This is a diversified study of the fundamentals of modern dance, and a combination of dance movement, theory, and imagination. Other styles of dance may be introduced. Prerequisites: RDNG 099 if required by placement testing; ENGL 099 or prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ESL 120, 121, and 122 (or prior completion of ESL 103) if required by placement testing. 1 Cr. (2 Lab.) Fall and spring semesters.

### **Course Context/Audience**

This course may be used as an unrestricted elective.

### **Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations**

**Writing:** W2 Student should have completed ENGL 099 (if needed). The course requires short written responses and/or short papers without documentation, particularly personal reflection or narrative.

**Math:** M0 Course requires very little or no math.

**Reading:** R2 Before taking this course, students must have a C or better in RDNG 099 or assessment indicating that RDNG 099 was not required.

### **Course Goals**

Each student will work toward gaining skill and confidence as a dancer. The importance of cultural diversity will be explored and celebrated. Students will:

1. Work towards being capable in improvisational movement as well as set dance forms.
2. Gain a basic understanding of dance history as it relates to the emergence of the modern dance movement.
3. Compose a brief movement study to be incorporated into a group dance to be filmed at the end of the semester.
4. Complete a written report on a modern dance choreographer of their choice and share their findings in an oral report to the class.

**Course Objectives/Topics**

Objective/Topic	# Hours
Syllabus review, course operating standards.	1 Hour
Basic dance forms and body positions.	7 Hours
Review and practice of previous material.	7 Hours
New and old material applied to routines.	6 Hours
Improvisation/choreography.	5 Hours
Lecture/film.	4 Hours

**General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness**

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.</li> <li>➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.</li> <li>➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.</li> <li>➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.</li> </ul>	<p>Through improvisational exercises, using particular steps to different music, balance exercises and learning how to adapt to different body types, students will combine learned steps, interpret music, and analyze and fix mistakes without interrupting the dance sequences.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</li> <li>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</li> </ul>	<p>Dancing is performed all over the world by many different populations without any race, culture money or gender barriers. Through dancing with different partners and a variety of connection exercises, mutual interaction with different partners will be achieved.</p>

**Instructional Methods**

Large group lecture. Group and individual coaching. Videos and DVD of dance history and works of various

Revised Spr 14

choreographers.

### Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Participation in class and coaching sessions	50%
Written report	20%
Contribution to overall success of class	10%
Group presentation	10%
Individual presentation	10%

### Text(s)

#### Bibliography

Marcia B. Siegel "Shapes of Change - Images of American Dance," Houghton Mifflin Company.

Anna Halprin "Moving Toward Life," Wesleyan University Press.

Joyce Morgenroth "Dance Improvisations." University of Pittsburgh Press, 1987 and "Speaking of Dance: Twelve Contemporary Choreographers on Their Craft.

### Other Learning Resources

<b>Audiovisual</b> No resources specified
<b>Electronic</b> <a href="http://www.aahperd.org/nda">www.aahperd.org/nda</a>
<b>Other</b> Dance Magazine