

## **Rhythmic Training – DANC 203 – section 1 – Fall 2012 Syllabus**

Marymount Manhattan College Department of Dance

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:20 Studio 705

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This course is a workshop integrating musical concepts – primarily rhythmic – with the development of dance skills. Beat, tempo, meter, accent and phrase structure will be analyzed and applied through movement, both improvised and choreographed. The dancers will accompany movement utilizing both percussion and voice.

### Learning Goals for DANC 203

The student will:

Accurately use musical notation to: perform and/or create multiple-part rhythms in sound and movement; analyze and create the rhythmic outlines of movement phrases; follow a musical score.

Aurally identify simple and compound meters of pieces of music. Correctly employ time signatures in notational activities. Create and perform movement phrases with clear metrical profiles or clear relationships to metrical structures.

Analyze the rhythmic elements of a dance performance to music or silence. Vary rhythmic elements of a movement phrase in order to change its “meanings.”

Create, and accurately and musically perform, movement phrases in rhythmic counterpoint to recorded music and/or to sound “sung” as you dance. Include elements of counterpoint between different (moving) parts of the body.

Improvise rhythmically in sound and movement. Develop rhythmic ideas over time to form a composition in sound or movement. Identify common forms of rhythmic variation and development in sound and in movement.

Identify rhythmic features in a variety of music and describe and analyze their relationships, including ones characteristic of style or period.

### Evaluation Criteria for the Learning Goals

#### *Class attendance and participation*

Participation means taking part fully in the movement and sound exercises and exploring the limits of the possibilities available to you in producing sound and movement within the context of the instructions. Missing class and being late to class has a negative impact on your grade.

*Assignments: Watching/Listening/Reading Homework and Movement/Sound Studies*

There are homework assignments due almost every class meeting. Generally speaking, for Thursday the assignments are to watch videos, listen to audio, and/or read scores, which are available either online or on the library's server; for Tuesdays the assignments are usually short thirty-second movement and/or music studies, i.e. little pieces you choreograph and/or compose, almost always including the requirement that you turn in a rhythmic score for the movement, the sound, or both.

The watching/listening/reading assignments should take less than an hour. You should pay attention to the material, not doing something else at the same time, and you will want to take notes so that you can refer to them when we discuss the material in class, as well as so that you can refer back to them later in the semester. In some case your notes will be collected and returned at the next class meeting, so be prepared to turn them in. They do not need to be in full sentences or in paragraph form—they are, after all, just notes that indicate ideas you had, details you noticed, or musical notation you figured out.

The choreography/composition assignments may take some time, which is why you have five days to do them. The last few, for which you will have more time, require you to make longer pieces and work with other students. Do not wait to the last minute to do them. The requirement that you turn in a rhythmic score is a difficult and time-consuming one!

*Quizzes and Final*

The final covers music notation and the ideas about music, rhythm and dance discussed in class. It includes written and oral components. The written component consists primarily of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answers, but also includes audio examples of rhythms for students to notate, and recordings and scores for students to follow. The oral component is a short individual meeting with the instructor at which the student demonstrates notation reading by performing rhythms from a score. A few short quizzes throughout the semester prepare the students for the encounter with the final exam.

Grade*% Activity*

- 20 Participation in class exercises including discussion
- 15 Assignments to watch, listen, read, notate, and discuss
- 30 Movement/sound studies (including notation) except last one
- 15 Last movement/sound study: two-minute choreography/composition
- 5 Quizzes
- 15 Final (individual and written)

### Academic integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Marymount Manhattan College Academic Honesty Policy (<http://www.mmm.edu/study/academicpolicies/mmcaacademichonestypolicy.pdf>). Any work submitted by a student for academic credit will be the student's own work.

### Attendance policy

The department has a unified policy on class attendance to which all faculty members adhere.

If students must be absent for a period of time for medical or personal reasons, they should talk with the instructor and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation if necessary.

After two unexcused class absences a student's grade goes down by one level for each additional absence (i.e. a "B+" becomes a "B").

Class starts at 10 a.m. Do not be late. Arriving late twice constitutes one absence. Arrival after 10:15 is counted as an absence.

It is in your best interest to attend class regularly and punctually and, if you must miss class, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

### Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must either enroll in the Program for Academic Access or register with the Office of Disabilities. For any accommodation, the instructor must be presented with either a letter from the Director of the Program for Academic Access or an Accommodations Card from the Office of Disabilities during the first week of classes.

### Materials

You will want to take notes so bring some sort of notebook. Although there will be handouts, much that is discussed is not written down—it is up to you to jot down what you think is important, what new ideas you've heard or had yourself, and anything else that you want to refer back to at a later point. Sometimes the discussion and/or ideas will occur during a movement exercise when you don't have the notebook handy; in that case you will want to update your notebook as soon as possible, probably right after class. Taking good notes is one of the best skills you can learn, because many details aren't printed anywhere, and your memory will fade.

Come to class ready to move. Tights and leotards are not necessary, but freedom to move is. Sweats and a t-shirt are fine. Movement exercises will be barefoot.

Schedule of class meetings

- Week 1 – **September 4 & 6** – Counting, Beat Division, and Basic Notation
- Week 2 – **September 11 & 13** – Temporal Hierarchy, Simple Meter, and More Notes
- Week 3 – **September 18 & 20** – More Simple Meters, Complex Meter, Ties, and Anacrusis
- Week 4 – **September 25 & 27** – Phrasing, and More Meters
- Week 5 – **October 2 & 4** – Pitch, Rubato, and Score Reading
- Week 6 – **October 9 & 11** – Rests, More Scores, and Mixed Meter
- Week 7 – **October 16 & 18** – Additive Meter, and Musical Forms
- Week 8 – **October 23 & 25** – One-Minute Pieces, Music without Pulse, and Coarticulation
- Week 9 – **October 30** – Texture, and Polyrhythm
- Week 10 – **November 8** – Polymeter, and Metric Modulation
- Week 11 – **November 13 & 15** – More Polyphony, and Reading Large Scores, and Timbre
- Week 12 – **November 20** – Topics TBA
- Week 13 – **November 27 & 29** – Project Presentations
- Week 14 – **December 4 & 6** – Review
- Week 15 – **December 13** – Individual Notation Reading
- Week 16 – **December 18** – Final Examination

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