

Jazz Dance THE 281  
Eddie Forehand - Lecturer  
Office: Armstrong 48B  
319-895-4561

[eforehand@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:eforehand@cornellcollege.edu)

Office Hours: T, TH. 11 - 12pm and by appointment.

### **Course Hours**

M, W, F. - 9am until 12pm

T, Th. - 8:30am until 11am.

(NO afternoon sessions)

### **Course Description**

This course will engage students in a variety of methods to aid in the understanding and execution of jazz dancing and choreography. Students will be challenged through technique class, learning choreography, as well as various writing/research assignments. Critical thinking is a must as students will broaden their understanding of jazz through readings and video viewings followed by open, inclusive discussions relating to jazz.

### **Course Objective**

- Cultivate an awareness of one's own body while articulating movement (inquiry, reasoning)
- Gain confidence through a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie with peers (citizenship, communication)
- Build a critical eye and creative mind through feedback, self reflection, and improvisation (knowledge, inquiry, reasoning)
- Improve your physical strength and endurance while beginning to reflect on artistry (inquiry, reasoning, well being)
- Recognize your own limitations then try exceed them through hard work and focus (inquiry, knowledge, well being)
- Realize how your body moves within various rhythms in the Jazz genre (inquiry, reasoning)
- Gain a deeper and broader understanding of the Jazz movement style and overall genre through research and practice (knowledge, communication, intercultural literacy)

Students will learn and be able to accomplish beginning jazz movement, improvisation, as well as learn and retain jazz choreography in a positive and open atmosphere.

*This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with an emphases on knowledge, communication, inquiry, and vocation.*

### **Course Requirements**

- An introductory writing assignment outlining your movement history and relationship with Jazz
- Attend class. More than **1** absence (in a session) will start to impact your grade
- Come to class **early** and prepared and respect others' time and space
- Come with an open mind and ready to focus on the class and choreography given

- Students are expected to participate fully unless injury prevents
- Final paper and presentation demonstrating your deeper understanding and investigation on specific Jazz pioneers

Though this class is rooted in physical practice, there are opportunities for discussion, writings, and readings that will be required of you, as part of your overall education in this class and genre. All assignments with a due date are expected to be on time, no exceptions.

Movement History Paper- **Due by Friday Oct. 25th.** In this paper, you should describe your movement/ dance history. You may include sports and anything else relevant that would help me understand how and why you move how you move. Also to be included in this paper is an explanation of how you perceive jazz dance. What do you think about when you hear the word jazz? Why are you interested in jazz movement? Paper should be 2 pages double spaced.

Jazz Final Paper and Presentation- **Due on Wed. Nov. 13th** (if two days needed we will start on the previous Tue.) The paper will be based on one of the choreographers/musicians that were covered in the jazz block. The paper needs to be a **minimum** of 2 pages double spaced. Within this paper, I would like to see how your relation with jazz has grown. You may want to consider: How did this person help evolve jazz? How are they representing jazz? In what ways were you surprised by this person and what did you like /dislike about that? How are they helping or hindering your ideas or the popular opinion of contemporary jazz? Please, only a small amount of history on the person is required and try to find interesting details. This paper will coincide with the group research presentation. For instance, if your group is presenting on Bob Fosse, then your paper will be about Bob Fosse, unless given permission.

The group presentation will be based on the research you have done for your paper. **No powerpoint allowed.** This may be casual but informative with creative ideas driving your questions and research. You may choose to discuss the impact of the choreographer/musician on not just the jazz genre, but in all dance/music. You may do a movement study showing the class your understanding of the particular style of a choreographer, etc...Please limit the presentations to 10 -15 minutes per group.

The presentations will be videoed by the instructor so as to give time for evaluation and consideration on all aspects presented.

**Each individual will turn in their own paper along with participating in a group presentation.**

**NO** textbooks are required for this class. Instructor will provide all reading material.

Please read the material as it will be referenced though-out the course and will aid in your overall knowledge.

Attendance- This course is an experiential course, requiring the student to be present in order to understand mentally and physically the full scope of dance and all its knowledge. That said, the student is allowed **1** absence in the 3 1/2 week block. After that, the letter grade will drop by one with each additional absence.

2 = B

3 = C

4 = D

5 or more = F

The instructor understands extenuating circumstances and will handle these on a case by case basis.

If you will be missing class due to a school arranged event, you must let the instructor know on the first day...no excuses or exceptions. If not addressed, it will count as an absence.

**If any student is more than 10 minutes late, that will count as half an absence. Two times late is a full absence.**

Dress Code- As this course is a dance class, please come prepared in breathable tighter fitting clothing so the instructor may offer corrections based on proper body alignment. Anything too loose or flowy may impair instructors' ability to correct and can be potentially dangerous to student. Any form of **fitted** athletic pants, yoga pants, sweat pants, and tights are permitted.

**Fitted** t-shirts as well as tanks tops, and yoga tops are allowed. Please stick to dark colors preferably. I understand during the cold months there may be a need for warm ups. They are permitted as long as removed when requested. Proper footwear is required. Please try to obtain jazz shoes by the end of the week if you do not already have any.

NOT Permitted- Short (booty) shorts, any profanity written on clothing, loose or baggy clothes, anything transparent, sports bras as a top, and thong leotards on top of tights. Also, socks are not proper footwear, nor is bare feet. This is to insure less distraction and keep the focus on the lessons at hand. If there is any question on what to wear, please consider asking before wearing.

Proper Etiquette Is Required. Please turn off your cell phones. Keep outside shoes out of the studio. Remember that food of any kind is a messy distraction. Only water in the studio and please keep the talking to a minimum unless specified. This is a place of activity and reflection, please observe your peers quietly and respectfully.

Physical Contact. Dance is a physical activity that may require bodily contact with peers and tactile corrections from the instructor. If any student is uncomfortable with physical corrections, please let the instructor know before class begins.

### **Grading**

Attendance/participation	50%
Movement history paper	10%
Final paper and presentation	30%
Learning choreography/showings	10%

### **Course Schedule**

(there will be a built in breaks for water and snacks)

Oct. 21	Introduction Technique Class Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Matt Mattox	Focus Musician: Wynton Marsalis
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Oct. 22	Technique Class Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Matt Mattox	Focus Musician: Wynton Marsalis
Oct. 23	Technique Class Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Matt Mattox	Focus Musician: Wynton Marsalis
Oct. 24	Technique Class Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Matt Mattox	Focus Musician: Wynton Marsalis
Oct. 25	Technique Class Choreography and demonstration Video Showing	Focus Choreographer: Matt Mattox	Focus Musician: Wynton Marsalis

Oct. 28	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sue Samuels	Focus Musician: Ella Fitzgerald
Oct. 29	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sue Samuels	Focus Musician: Ella Fitzgerald
Oct. 30	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sue Samuels	Focus Musician: Ella Fitzgerald
Oct. 31	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sue Samuels	Focus Musician: Ella Fitzgerald
Nov. 1	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography and demonstration Video Showing	Focus Choreographer: Sue Samuels	Focus Musician: Ella Fitzgerald

Nov. 4	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sonja Tayeh	Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
Nov. 5	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sonja Tayeh	Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
Nov. 6	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sonja Tayeh	Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
Nov. 7	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography	Focus Choreographer: Sonja Tayeh	Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim

Nov. 8	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography Video Showing	Focus Choreographer: Sonja Tayeh	Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
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Nov. 11	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography Showing		Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
Nov.12	Technique Class including improvisation Choreography Showing Possible Start of Final Presentations		Focus Musician: Antonio Carlos Jobim
Nov.13	Final Presentations		

### **Academic Honesty**

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is their work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty."

### **Students With Disabilities**

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

### **Summary Statement:**

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on knowledge, communication, and intercultural literacy.