Rhythmic Analysis & Music Resources for Dance, 114 001
3 Credits

F16, TR, 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM
Location: PAB A307
Instructor: Christopher d'Amboise
Office Phone: 703 993-4384
Office Hours: By appointment
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Department Mailbox: PAB, A300

Course Description and Objectives:
Introduces rhythmic structure, notation, and basic forms of music.

This course will familiarize students with the concept and application of rhythm, especially as it applies to dance. Specific areas of study include: basic music vocabulary such as beat, tempo, time signature, syncopation, etc.; basic rhythmic notation as a means to understanding duration and the division of time; practice and critical analysis of dance movement as it relates to these concepts; and the introduction and application (playing and moving) of basic rhythms. The course will include a basic overview of classical musical forms, traditional Western harmony and introduction to composers from all periods.

Nature of Course Delivery:
This course is taught through studio practice, lectures, and discussion.

Student Outcomes:
• Students will acquire a rudimentary understanding of Western music notation
• Students will learn basic classical music history and forms.
• Students will develop critical skills to evaluate the rhythmic phrasing of movement
• Students will cultivate an awareness of moving “in time” to rhythm through the practice of stepping, clapping, and playing instruments.

Course Requirements:
• Class attendance is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to attend every class.
  o Moreover, four absences may result in a failing grade. It is not possible to make up any missed classes.
  (see Checklist for Success in Dance Class on your instructor’s homepage)
  o Latecomers must sign in. Chronic lateness will affect final grades.
  o If it is necessary to leave class early, inform the instructor ahead of time. The class will count as ½ attendance.
• Class notebook/journal: Students are encouraged to keep daily notes, and include projects, handouts, quizzes, homework, and class assignments in a notebook/journal.
• Class assignments and projects: In addition to in-class activities, students will be required to do assignments that include choreographing short phrases, finding and notating rhythms, and finding music examples. Directions for these assignments will be given in class and/or via email accounts. Students must check their accounts daily since they will be used for communication of projects, assignments and calendar updates
• Exams will include both written and performance components.
• Final Exam Date: December 15th, 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Required Resources:
• Notebook
• Toy Instrument

Evaluation:
25% Attendance
25% Focused participation, integration of course material,
25% Assigned projects
25% Midterm and Final exams (that include both notation and movement)

Grading Standards:
• A grade of “A” is given for superlative work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and further, that goes on to employ this material as a springboard for independent thought and work.
• A grade of “B” is given for very good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates mastery of the course content.
• A grade of “C” is given for work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in a satisfactory manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.
• A grade of “D” is given for work that is unsatisfactory
• A grade of “F” is given for work that fails to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Mason Add/Drop Policy: The last day to drop this class with no tuition liability is 9/6/2016. The last day to drop this class without Dean’s permission is 9/30/2016, by 5pm. The elective withdrawal period for this class is from 10/3/2016 to 10/28/2016. It is the student’s responsibility to check to verify that they are properly enrolled as no credit will be awarded to students who are not.

Honor Code, Copyright, & Computing Policies: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

You are expected to adhere to all University policies and guidelines during your participation in this course. All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others is a George Mason University Honor Code violation. Please review the University’s website for information on the following: Honor Code and Judicial Procedures; Copyright/Fair Use; and Responsible Use of Computing.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through the Disability Resource Center.

It is not possible to receive an incomplete grade in this class. If you anticipate difficulty in completing this course see your instructor immediately to discuss your options.

NOTE: Cell phones, pagers and alarms must be turned off in class. No exceptions.

EMERGENCY ALERT: You are encouraged to sign up for the Mason Alert System by visiting the website https://alert.gmu.edu. An emergency poster exists in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises and that further information about emergency procedures exists on http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert.

*Photos may be taken periodically during the semester for the School of Dance social media use. Images will be identified only as class groups; student names will not be used. Please notify me if you prefer NOT to be included.