RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE  

DANC-121 WORLD DANCE HISTORY  

I. Basic Course Information  
   A. Course Number and Title: DANC-121 WORLD DANCE HISTORY  
   B. New or Modified Course: Modified  
   C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2015  
   D. Effective Term: Fall 2015  
   E. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts  
   F. Semester Credit Hours: 3  
   G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: 0  
   H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None  
   I. Laboratory Fees: None  
   J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval:  
      Donna Stackhouse (Donna.Stackhouse@raritanval.edu)  
      & Dennis Russo (Dennis.Russo@raritanval.edu)  

II. Catalog Description  

World Dance History introduces students to the dance practices from the time of prehistoric peoples into the early part of the 20th century. Emphasis will be placed on the dance relationship to civilization and its cultural context. Students will explore dance through a variety of media including lectures, slides, videos/DVDs, readings, and by dancing themselves. The course also enables students to develop an awareness of movement as an artistic medium and provides a frame of reference from which to view and appreciate dance and dance performances. Students will be required to attend a live dance performance. Offered in the Fall Semester.  

III. Statement of Course Need  

A. World Dance History examines selected works of dance in a historical, cultural and social context. This course serves as an art appreciation course and expands the choices for students who need to fill a Humanities/Art Appreciation General
Education requirement, as well as (GCA) Global and Cultural Awareness requirement. This course is a core requirement of the A.F.A. Dance Degree at RVCC and is a required course in most 4 year university dance programs.

**B. No lab component**

**C. Transferability:**
1. This course generally transfers as a Humanities General Education course.
2. This course generally transfers as a dance elective program requirement.
3. This course generally transfers as a dance program elective.

**IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

A. Free elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/Art Appreciation/Global and Cultural Awareness.
C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.F.A. Dance degree.
D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

**V. Outline of Course Content**

A. Prehistoric Period
   1. Agricultural and hunting/gathering people’s ritual dances
   2. Aspects of collecting evidence for dance
B. Ancient Aboriginal/Native American
C. Greek dance/mimesis and its role in dancing
D. Etruscan, Roman and Byzantine dance
   1. The role of war training as a theme for dance
E. Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque dance
   1. The role of politics in dance
F. Early romantic ballet and the Russian ballet
   1. The role of gender issues in dance
G. African dance and African American Diasporic dance
   1. Haitian voodoo
   2. Brazilian Capoiera
H. Asian dance forms
   1. Indian, Philippine, Balinese, Korean and Japanese dance
I. Oceania and Polynesian dance forms
   1. Hawaiian hula, Tahitian, Australian Aboriginal and New Zealand Maori dance forms
VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate orally and in writing, through cultural, historical and stylistic perspectives, the development of movement, choreography and dance. (GE-NJ 1, 6, 8) *

* embedded critical thinking

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the categories of compositional elements, movement analysis, and dance terminology.
2. Compare and contrast choreographic styles and trends.
3. Evaluate dance works using objective and subjective criteria.

C. Assessment Instruments

A. Lecture/Discussion
B. In class critique
C. Reading and written assignments
D. Small-group work and student collaborations
E. Computer-assisted instruction
F. Student oral presentations
G. In class movement work
H. Examinations
I. Research Paper

VII. Grade Determinants

A. Attendance
B. Participation
C. Weekly assignments and readings
D. Written examinations and Final exam
E. Written critique of a live dance performance
F. Final paper

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested text
1. The Dance Experience: Insights Into History, Culture and Creativity, Second Edition by Myron Howard Nadel and Marc Raymond Strauss, 0871272512
2. Moving History/Dancing Cultures, Ann Dils/Ann Cooper-Albright, Editors
3. Dance As a Theatre Art, Selma Jeanne Cohen, Editor

B. Materials: None

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

A. CAT room, equipped with computer, DVD and Video monitor equipment.
B. Marker board
C. Library of video and DVD performance recordings
D. Reviews – from journals/magazines/newspapers