

Course Expectation Resource Sheet - DAN 180

“What can students expect if they choose this course?”

Course: DAN 180 - Dance Appreciation

Department: Theatre and Dance

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description: Survey of dance from a historical retrospective through the creative process. Emphasis will be placed on historical multi-cultural and societal influences on dance. The approach will be from the viewpoint of the audience to help heighten awareness of and increase critical thinking in relationship to the artistic experience. Buying tickets to and attendance at local productions required.

Catalog: 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 9/19/2025

Gen Ed Course: Yes

Gen Ed Area: HUMAN CULTURES

Gen Ed Requirement: The Arts (GEC 112)

CORE-42 Course: No

CORE-42 Area:

MOTR Code - MOTR Title: -

Is credit also available through:

Advanced Placement (AP)?: No

College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?: No

International Baccalaureate (IB)?: No

(click link for more information and required scores)

Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

Please refer to your individual class syllabus for details and communicate regularly with your teacher for specific questions and concerns.

Last Updated: 8/7/2026

The following responses apply to: Both seated and online courses

What expectations do you have for students in this course?

Goals: are

- 1) Understand how bodily expression, especially dance, contributes to human self-expression and self-understanding;
- 2) Understand how dance has changed and developed over time as an expression of human life and experience.
- 3) Understand how social and cultural factors influence the development of dance, with emphasis on 20th and 21st century dance

Expectations: show up to class, do the work assigned (discussion boards, for example), and be engaged in learning about dance as an art form.

What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?

Some memorization of terms, dates, etc. Students will develop the ability to “read” dance (design, choreography, movement patterns, etc.) and write about it clearly and cogently. Ability to move between small-scale detail (what’s happening in this moment?) and larger historical patterns (how does this differ from what goes before and after?)

What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?

Reading the course materials and watching the videos is essential. Taking notes from lectures/discussions is a practice of the most successful students.

What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course? What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?

Missing class (for online classes, skipping lectures/videos), not doing the assigned quizzes or written assignments/discussions.

Most people who show up regularly, engage, and do the assigned work do quite well in the class. Time management (mostly skipping classes/assignments or putting things off until the last minute) is the biggest issue.

Passive engagement, rather than active, tends to make it harder for students to complete the work on time.

- 1) talk to the instructor (email, office hours, etc.). this is the first and most important recommendation.
- 2) reread/rewatch the material as needed. ask for clarification from instructor or other students for material that isn't clear.

This is a straightforward course, with clear goals and a path to success, but it is not necessarily easy. The "ease" of the course depends on the amount of work the student puts in.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask "What is this class about?" (without using the catalog description)?

Learning to appreciate and understand dance as a basic form of human expression and self-understanding (that exists in literally every human society) and as a mirror held up to the culture/society in which it is practiced..

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Dance is everywhere—being able to understand and appreciate how it works and how it connects to our society is part of being an educated person.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Anyone who has an interest in the arts, who has danced, or who is interested in the development of human expression.

*Prepared by the Reynolds College Center for Student Success
Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (RCASH)
For use by all students and academic advisors at Missouri State University
Online Undergraduate Catalog information takes precedence over catalog information on this resource*