“Jazz, itself is a feeling, an honest, personal feeling, inspired by soulful music. The source of jazz is inside. Jazz cannot be found in a pose, or a leap, or a bump, or a grind. It’s not a series of ‘jazz steps’. Jazz must be an honest expression of a musical soul. Jazz dance is moving with that feeling through a safe and effective technique. Never force an extension or back arch. Nothing should hurt. Technique is like tuning an instrument; learn to tune your body just right, so that when you go to play it, it’s beautiful. Never stop moving. Even when you are standing still, feel the movement inside.”  
- Luigi, jazz dance legend, NYC 1993

“Hiphop is very abstract, it’s very undefined. When you hear that drummer’s beat, you just got to go with it.”
- Rosie Perez, choreographer, actress

**Office Hours: By Appointment**  
**Location:** Rec Center Dance Theatre

**Class Time:** TUTH 1 – 2:05

**Email:** dance4survival@hotmail.com

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is an introductory course geared towards those with little or no jazz/hip hop dance experience. Students should also keep in mind that because there is only one of these classes offered, there will be a variety of ability levels within the class. The instructor is aware of this and structures lessons that will accommodate each individual’s technique level. Students can expect to learn the fundamentals of dance technique through warm ups, center and across the floor combinations in various styles such as lyrical, street, musical theatre, music video choreography, and fluid jazz/modern fusion. Students will also learn anatomical terms, jazz and hiphop dance history and dance vocabulary through handouts they can access on OWLSPACE. There will also be opportunities for students to do self-evaluations and reflections on dance progress through journals that will be turned in for a grade. Students are expected to attend class with an open mind and a willingness to actively participate every day.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Development of correct dance technique, alignment, flexibility, strength, stamina, centering and transference of body weight.

- Improvement of neuromuscular coordination: precise control and placement of body parts.

- Development of dynamic qualities of movement required for clarity, focus, and expressiveness.

- Improvement of movement memory: ability to pick up movements faster and remember them longer.

- Improvement of musicality/timing in dance: learning about rhythm, tempo, meter and phrasing to develop rhythmic skills in dance.

- Integration of critical thinking skills through reading and written assignments that will enhance experiential concepts.
EVALUATION/GRADING:

Daily performance, participation, improvement in technique goals 50%
Midterm Exam 10%
Final Exam 20%
Dance Journals 10%
Concert Attendance 10%

Course Requirements

Daily Performance/Goal Improvement: Attendance and full participation are critical to the strength and development of skill and technique in dance. In the studio, each student will be evaluated according to his or her level of participation, focus, application of corrections given and overall improvement of course objectives.

Midterm and Final Exam: The midterm and final will consist of dance sequences that have been worked on in previous classes. They be graded on the following: the ability to remember dance sequences without following other dancers; movements on correct counts; overall flow, dynamics, and energy. There may also be a written component for these exams.

Concert Attendance: You will be required to attend a live dance concert, info TBA.

Dance Journals: You will turn 2 journals. They must be typed, double-spaced with a minimum of 350 words for each journal. Please include a word count.

Journals are due in class. I do not accept emailed journals because I write comments on your paper and return to you. If you forget to bring it to class the day it is due, you will have to give it to me the following class and it will have 5 points off per class late.

LPAPs are for credit: All LPAPs are now for 1 credit hour, and they do count toward a student’s GPA. All undergraduates have to take at least 1 LPAP in order to graduate.

Class Attire:

Dance clothes are required for jazz/hiphop dance. Your grade will be penalized for inappropriate attire.

NO STREET CLOTHES ALLOWED. NO jeans, slacks, jeggings, pajama jeans..

Dance clothes include: leotards, tights, leggings, tank tops, fitted t-shirts, bike shorts, sweats, loose, stretchy pants cut off above the ankle. (All pants need to fall above the ankle.) If you find that your feet are sticking to the floor, you can purchase soft, flexible dance footwear or jazz shoes, (soft, split sole only, no dance sneakers).

NO SOCKS OR STOCKINGS ALLOWED. You may also purchase a type of footwear that goes by the names, “Foot Undeez”, “Foot Thongs”, or “Dance Paws” if you find that your feet are sticking to the floor too much. Try www.discountdance.com or www.dancedistributors.com for footwear. No big jewelry allowed in class.
Regardless of what you wear on your feet, you must be barefoot at the very beginning of class during the warm up. This is so that your feet can grip the floor and not slide when we stretch.

Hair MUST be secured back from face and off of neck.

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to actively participate while in attendance. During the course of the semester, students are allowed two “free” absences. Should a student miss an additional class, she/he will need to arrange to make up that missed class at a time and place that is agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate conversation with the instructor to discuss the make up, and an agreement must be reached within two weeks of the absence. If a student fails to make up a missed third or fourth class, his/her final grade will drop by one or two grade letters. Students will not be allowed to make up more than two absences. Five total absences, including those that were made up and no matter their circumstance, will result in a failing grade for the course. See instructor for make up options.

Honor Code Violations:
All students are expected to uphold their pledge to the Rice Honor Code. Any student caught cheating on an exam or written assignment will be reported to the Chair of the Honor Council, and an investigation will ensue. Any questions that you may have about what constitutes an honor code violation in this class can be directed to the instructor. Instructor Specifics: Journals, written exam, and any make up papers should be done in the student’s own words. No copying from any source will be allowed in Ms. Nalett’s class.

ADA Policy Statement
If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.

Tardiness
Entering class after I have called the roll is considered tardy. Three to four tardies will equal an absence depending on how much class time was missed. Students entering class after the warm up exercise has been completed are risking injury to themselves therefore entering class after we have completed the warm exercises will result in you sitting out and observing.

Class Observation Guidelines:
You may find yourself sitting out of a class if you are really late or if you are sick or injured (no more than 2 allowed per semester). Sitting out does not mean you are not involved in class. You will be taking notes on what we are doing or you may be assisting the instructor in some manner. You are not allowed to sleep or use your phone or laptop or do work for another class while sitting out. If the instructor finds you doing any of these you will be asked to leave and marked as absent for that day.

Other Notes:
Please remember to bring water to class. Hydrating the body during a workout is necessary for optimum performance. No gum chewing for your own safety while dancing.
Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class.
**Fall 2012- Important Dates**

Aug. 21  First Day, Discuss syllabus  
Aug. 30  Journal #1 Due IN CLASS  
Oct. 9   Dance Midterm  
Oct. 11  No Class – Rice Holiday  
Nov. 15  Journal #2 Due IN CLASS  
Nov. 27  Dance Final  
Nov. 22  No Class - Thanksgiving  
Nov. 29  LAST DAY OF CLASS

**Journal #1 Guidelines**

Use the first journal as a chance to look forward and tell me about yourself. You could discuss any of the following: what would you like to get out of the class? What types of experiences have you already had (dance or otherwise) that you think will help you in this dance course? Do you have any specific goals for yourself in this class this semester? What would you like to learn? Based on your actual knowledge or assumptions about jazz and hiphop, what do you think we will be doing in this class this semester? How do you see yourself on the last day of class, level and skill-wise? You are free to add anything else dance-class related you would like to in this journal.

**Journal #2 Guidelines**

Use the second journal as a chance to reflect on your semester of dancing. How has your ability grown? What new things have you learned about dance or about yourself? How did the actual classes compare with what you thought the class would be about in the beginning of the semester? Did you achieve your goals? Did you have fun? How would you rate you current dance ability and would you take another class to continue improving? How will you be able to use your learned skills in your future activities? You are free to add anything else you would like to in this journal.

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**Please bear in mind that you are only in competition with yourself. Dance is a highly personal adventure. Your achievements depend on your willingness to work hard, your desire to improve, your ability to concentrate, your receptiveness toward constructive criticism and the extent to which you can perceive your own efforts with objectivity. Success demands time and patience.**