

**Arizona State University
Fall 2023**

DAN 137 African and Diaspora Movement Practices

Course Schedule: T/TH 12:00 PM-1:15 PM (credits 3)

Instructor: Shola K. Roberts; shola.roberts@asu.edu
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Office Hours: West 262 / T/Th 2:00 PM- 3:00 or by appointments

Course Description:

The African diaspora refers to communities grown out of involuntary dispersion of African people outside of Africa. This course explores dances cultures, and tradition practiced, developed, lost, protected, and rediscovered, during the centuries of Euro- American slave trade and subsequent African migrations and immigration from West Africa to the Caribbean. This course is an introduction to the movement technique of Traditional West African, Traditional Folk Dances of Grenada, specifically Bele and Shango and Dances of Haiti/ Cuba, while understanding it's role in Caribbean Contemporary. Utilizing the nuances of the various styled dances stated previously one will embody is associated with Caribbean Culture play a role in our bodies. Pulling from the Modern, Traditional West African (Senegal, Guinea, Mali), Afro Cuban, and Contemporary this class draws from these genres to create a language of its own. The music utilized during the class will come from live percussion in addition to Soca birthed from Calypso and Soul. The content will be rooted in the theme of mind, body, spirit as they engage in class participation, observation, dialogue, and practice of the movement vocabulary. Students will be led to discover and reexamine the principles and values that undergird their personal philosophies of being a dance artist.

Enrollment Requirements: N/A

Required Readings and Supplies:

Weekly reading materials will be assigned by the instructor and can be accessed digitally through Canvas. The materials include a selection of professional journal articles, book chapters and video sources. See the Course Itinerary and weekly assignments for specific sources.

Course Objectives:

- Students are required to apply technique work vocabulary and execution developed and presented in Traditional West African and the Traditional Folk Dance forms of Bel- Air and Shango.

- Identify the basic elements/ movement/ terminology/ steps of Traditional Dances.
- Identify the specific clothing of Traditional West African and Grenadian Folk Dance and its role in the movement.
- Students will utilize written oral and viewing information in application and understanding of the Study of and Art of Dance as a Discipline.
- Students will demonstrate in written and practical application of the various dance styles covered Traditional Folk Dances of Grenada.
- Understand the historical, practicum context of Traditional West African, Traditional Folk Dances done in Grenada: Bel- Air/ Shango
- To identify, explore, investigate, examine the characteristics of the movement to the rhythms and contemporary forms of music and its relationship to movement.
- To physically apply these characteristics seen in contemporary caribbean music into application/Students will participate in movement rooted in soca and dancehall.
- Identify contemporary dance steps in Caribbean context.
- Students will identify the characteristics of contemporary music in Caribbean culture and embody those characteristics through physical demonstration.
- Students will demonstrate in written and practical application their knowledge of Caribbean Contemporary Dance that will serve as a tool of information for developing their artistic quality on and off the stage.
- Identify some key figures/ individuals that have had an impact on Caribbean Contemporary dance (dates)
- Students will utilize physical, written and oral information in application to understand the content.

Course Content:

- Define:
 - Traditional West African (TBA)
 - Traditional Folk Dance of Grenada
 - Bel-Air
 - Shango
- Movement Vocabulary, Terminology, Song and Feedback
- Historical Context of Traditional Folk Dance of Grenada
 - Bel-Air (Purpose and function of the *Folk* attire)
 - Shango
- Guest Artist Workshops (TBA)
- Presentation/Reflection

Please make a note of these important dates during the Fall 2022 semester:

Classes Begin: THURSDAY, August 17, 2023

Drop/Add Deadline: August 23, 2023

Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline: August 25, 2023

Labor day: September 4th, 2023

Course Withdrawal Deadline: November 1, 2023

Fall Break: October 7-10, 2023

Veterans Day :Thursday November 10, 2023

Native American Heritage month Break: November 24-25th, 2023

Complete Withdrawal Deadline: December 2, 2023

Last day: December 1, 2023

Study days: December 2-3th, 2023

Final presentation: November 28 and , December 30, 2023 TIME: 9:00 am-11:45 am

Course Requirements:

1. Investigate, critically examine and apply dance techniques, perspectives and theories into your movement application, classroom discussions and writing assignments.
2. Prepare for class assignments and discussions, and complete all course projects and assignments.
3. Regular, punctual attendance and full, invested participation in all class experiences, teaching projects and discussions.
4. Attend and assist classes in the ASU Dance Experience on Saturday, October 19th.

Course Evaluation:

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| 1. Performance- Workshop Participation and Engagement
/Course Work/ In-class Dialogue
(Adhering to the course policy, technical work) | 35% |
| 2. Written/Oral Assignments/ Journals | 35% |

3. Final Assignment (Final Paper/ Dance Presentation)

Assignment Guidelines

Reading Reflection Assignments

Read the assigned article(s) and submit a 300-word blog on Canva that:

- 1) Summarizes the key points made by the author
 - 2) Reflects on how the ideas shared relate to your own experiences and goals in dance education
 - 3) Pose two questions that arise for you related to the topic of the article.
- **Reflections should meet college level writing standards and be free of grammatical and typographical errors. Each entry must be a minimum of 400 words for full credit. Blogs are due each Sunday night by midnight. Late reflections will be accepted for up to a week after the deadline for 80% credit.

Final Cumulative Assignment Guidelines

1 Grading Percentages

- A+ 97-100%**
- A 93-96%**
- A- 90-92%**
- B+ 87-89%**
- B 83-86%**
- B- 80-82%**
- C+ 77-79%**
- C 70-78%**
- D 60-69%**
- E 0-59%**

Policies on Written Assignments and Due Dates

All written work should be completed at an undergraduate college level, meaning it should be structurally sound in content and organization; demonstrate critical thinking and comprehension; incorporate the student's own thoughts and opinions; and be free of grammatical and spelling errors. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas by the given due date. Late assignments will be accepted for up to a week after assignment deadlines for 80% credit.

Attire

Each learner is required to purchase a lappa for the Traditional West African component of class and Folk Dance Skirt for the Traditional Grenadian Folk Dance component. Each class you will be graded for your preparation as it relates to these items.

Males can purchase a dappa/ Harem pants. Learners would also have the opportunity to make their articles of clothing in the Costume shop under the approval of the costume shop manager, Cari Smith. Learners are expected to make an appointment with the costume shop prior to going to the shop to sew their own garments.

Absence and Attendance Policy

Due to the participatory nature of dance education classes, there is no substitute for being on location when the class is occurring. Appointments should not be made during class time. Students will be allowed two absences without it affecting their grade. After that, absences will negatively impact their participation score. If you have more than 3 absences (unexcused), your final grade will be lowered 1/3 grade for each subsequent absence (i.e. B to B-).

Excused absences related to religious observances/practices in accord with ACD 304-04, "Accommodation for Religious Practices." Students may be excused for the observance of religious holidays. Students should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester about the need to be absent from class due to religious observances. Students will be responsible for materials covered during their absence and should consult with the instructor to arrange reasonable accommodation for missed exams or other required assignments.

Excused absences related to university sanctioned activities in accord with ACD 304-02, "Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities." Students required to miss classes due to university sanctioned activities will not be counted absent. However, absence from class or examinations due to university-sanctioned activities does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of the absence. Students should inform the instructor early in the semester of upcoming scheduled absences and immediately upon learning of unscheduled required class absences. Reasonable accommodation to make up missed exams or other required assignments will be made. Consult the instructor BEFORE the absence to arrange for this accommodation.

Classroom Behavior

Electronic devices will not be allowed for personal use during class, however there will be times when it will be appropriate to use them for instructional purposes. Eating is not permitted in the dance studios during class.

Tactile Aid

Tactile teaching methods will be used in this class. At times the instructor or other students will use touch to facilitate students' understanding of specific concepts. If you are uncomfortable with this, please let the instructor know ASAP. All communication will be kept confidential.

Injuries

Students injured in class must notify the instructor immediately. All injuries incurred during class time must be reported to the SoFDT Business Manager within twenty-four hours. The injury will be officially documented by office personnel at this time.

Academic Integrity and Student Code of Conduct:

Besides academic performance, students should exhibit the qualities of honesty and integrity. Every student is expected to produce his/her original, independent work. Any student whose work indicates a violation of the ASU Academic Misconduct Policy including cheating, plagiarism, and dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined as

deliberately passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own. All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work. Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Arizona State University and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts expect the highest standards of academic integrity from all students. Failure to meet these standards may result in suspension or expulsion from the university or other sanctions as specified in the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>), "[e]ach student must act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments." This policy also defines academic dishonesty and sets a process for faculty members and colleges to sanction dishonesty. Violations of this policy fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to:

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- Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignments
 - Plagiarizing
 - Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information
 - Aiding Academic Integrity Policy violations and inappropriately collaborating
 - Falsifying academic records
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I sanction any incidents of academic dishonesty in my courses using University and HIDA guidelines. Should you have any question about whether or not something falls subject to this clause, feel free to contact me or review the university policy on academic integrity at the above link. Per ASU policy, a student may not avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by withdrawing from a course, and may be placed back in the course in order to face sanctions resulting from academic integrity violations. You are responsible for abiding by this policy.

Copyright:

Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. A statement that the course content, including lectures and other handouts, is copyrighted material. Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course (see [ACD 304-06](#), "Commercial Note Taking Services" for more information). THIS CONTENT IS PROTECTED AND MAY NOT BE SHARED, UPLOADED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED.

Student Conduct:

ASU adheres to a university-wide Student Code of Conduct. The philosophy behind this policy states: The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at each of the state universities. You are expected to treat your instructor and your fellow classmates with respect and kindness. In all correspondence and in Discussion Board postings, you should show respect for the viewpoints of others who may disagree with you or see things from a different perspective. Criticizing, ridiculing, insulting, or belittling others will not be accepted. Keep in mind that electronic communications do not have the advantage of nonverbal cues that are so much a part of interpersonal communication. Humor or satire can sometimes be misinterpreted in strictly electronic communication forums.

Threatening or disruptive behavior:

Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the classroom or studio and university community are necessary for a conducive learning and teaching environment. Threatening or violent behavior will result in the administrative withdrawal of the student from the class. Disruptive behavior may result in the removal of the student from the class. Threatening, violent, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class, and will be handled in accordance with ASU policy. For more information please visit: <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/PoliciesAndProcedures> and <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/safety/ThreateningBehavior>.

Classroom Behavior (Technology Usage):

It is encouraged that you bring technology (cell phones, tablets and laptops) to class to help you take notes and do research, however please turn off cell phone ringers and do not use your phone to make personal calls in class or use any technology to use social media in class. Do not answer your phone in class. If you believe you are receiving an emergency call, please step outside to take it.

Withdrawal:

If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to arrange for withdrawal from the class. You will not be automatically withdrawn and unless you are officially withdrawn from the course you will receive a final grade based upon the total points you have earned for the semester. Students are required to pay all tuition and fees for any registered course unless enrollment is officially cancelled during the 100% refund period. Please visit the Academic Calendar to review the withdrawal deadlines for this semester. For more information on Drop/Add and Withdrawal visit: <https://students.asu.edu/drop-add>

Special Accommodations:

Your instructor is willing to make any reasonable adaptations for limitations due to any documented disability, including learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss any special needs you may have. You must contact the Disability Resource Center to process the paperwork for special course accommodations. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center (<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/#> ; Phone: (480) 965-1234; TDD: (480) 965-9000). This is a very important step as accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively. If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, in order to assure that you receive your accommodations in a timely manner, please present this documentation to me as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed effectively.

Disability Support Services:

Students with disabilities must have an equally effective and equivalent educational opportunity as those students without disabilities. Students experiencing difficulty accessing course materials because of a disability are expected to contact the course instructor so that a solution can be found that provides all students equal access to course materials and technology. Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. It may be difficult to make accommodations retroactively. **Note:** Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Students should contact the Disability Resource Center on the campus that your class is being held. Campus-specific [location and contact information](#) can be found on the DRC website. DRC offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Check the [DRC website](#) for eligibility and documentation policies (<https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>)

Policy on Sexual Discrimination:

Policy on sexual discrimination as described in [ACD 401](#), "Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation", including the fact that the instructor is a mandated reporter and therefore obligated to report any information regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination. Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits [discrimination](#), [harassment](#), and [retaliation](#) by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information. As an employee of ASU, I am a mandated reporter and obligated to report instances of reported or suspected incidences of sexual harassment.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students must abide by all the requirements stated in this syllabus. In addition, all students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities at Arizona State University. Please reference the college catalog and student handbook for student rights and responsibilities.

These can be found here:

<https://arizonastateu.sharepoint.com/sites/HIDAstudent/StudentSuccess/Pages/Student-Handbook.aspx>

Student Services & Resources:

You will find a list of student resources at: <https://tutoring.asu.edu/student-resources>

Resources included are advisement, registration, financial aid, disability services, counseling, tutoring, library, and more.

Academic Calendar and Important Dates:

The academic calendar can be found here: <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>

Subject to change:

The Instructor reserves the right to change portions of this syllabus (assignments, deadlines etc.) by verbal instructions during scheduled class time. The student is responsible for noting changes and acting accordingly. Grading and absence policies are not subject to change.

Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications Policy:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.html>

Missed Classes Due to University Sanctioned Activities:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-02.html>

Accommodations for Religious Practices:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-04.html>

Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus:

<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html>

For more information, refer to: www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd304-10.html.

FERPA

Arizona State University follows the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act with regard to release and/or disclosure of student education records. ASU's policy may be found at: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi107-01.html>.

Signature Form

DCE 137: African and Diaspora Movement Practices
Instructor: Shola K. Roberts

DCE 137 FALL, 2023

I _____ have read the syllabus and understand the information presented about this course. My signature documents an agreement to adhere to these policies.

Signed,

_____ Date _____