



UC RIVERSIDE - Faculty Instruction Evaluation (iEval)

Fall 2017

Course: DNCE 014 Section: 001 - INTRO TO CHOREOGRAPHY
Instructor: Joel Smith

Question # 20: Please comment on how the instructor's teaching helped your learning of the material in this course. Please give serious thought to your comments. Your comments will be studied by the professor after the grade and performance evaluation of your work have been submitted and may be used in changing future offerings of the course. In addition, these comments are placed in the instructor's file and may be used for purposes of evaluating the instructor's teaching. The information collected will remain anonymous.

- Joel was a fantastic instructor with a true understanding of the subject he was teaching, inspiring enthusiasm and motivation in his students. Time was never wasted and growth was inevitable towards the end of the quarter.
- JOEL IS THE SWEETEST SOUL I HAVE EVER MET AND HE IS AN INCREDIBLE DANCE TEACHER! I am so blessed to have been able to be a part of this class. The environment and trust that we all cultivated with one another was a beautiful thing to be surrounded by. Every day Joel brought forth a new idea, a new theory, a new practice for us to try and experience. Bringing in guest artists was also very helpful due to perspectives. Joel's teaching style is extremely inclusive and there is definitely a safe space for one to be themselves; we are all guiding and helping one another grow and evolve. Wonderful course, and wonderful teacher, would recommend to anyone and everyone. Thank you so much for all the hearts you have touched and all you have done. Thank you for your friendship. -Yesenia Mowery
- I loved how welcoming the class was and how energetic you were, even though I was hitting my mid-day exhaustion. You always supported my explorations and creations in great ways. Also, I loved the improvisation. Thank you!
- I found all the videos shown in class to be very helpful in understanding the goal/task of the class. I love that Joel warms up with us and participates in most all the exercises. I also like that he gives us a lot of freedom to make choices regarding the order of the activities in class. It's like we have a say in how the pace of the class is going, which is nice and takes off some of the pressure when taking class. I enjoyed working in groups, even though normally I do not wish to work in groups. I feel like being in groups/partners when working in class allows us to be more confident in what we are doing because it's not just us in our own head where we tend to second guess ourselves.
- Honestly, when I first met you I thought you were going to be a tough and scary/intimidating professor - you know the ones that think they are all that. But honestly, you are such a sweet-heart. You know when to be classy, sassy, and humble. I love how you open up to your students and really try your hardest to boost our confidence and energy up. Outsourcing professional dancers is such a great idea to help keep things organic and different. All the videos were fun to watch. Honestly, I just never enjoyed a class so much in my entire education career as I did yours.
- amazing!!
- I loved this class and having Professor Smith as an instructor. It was a great experience and felt like I grew in all aspects in the period of 10 weeks. I liked the motivation to push yourself and having the space for creativity. Overall a great experience, would definitely recommend.
- Joel was one of the most understanding and caring professors I've had. I appreciate everything he did for the class and feel so grateful to have been apart of it.
- I enjoyed taking this course with Joel, he has helped me become a much more confident improv dancer. I have gained so much knowledge not only in my mind but with my body. I am excited to take another course taught by professor Smith.
- I am so glad I decided to take this course. I have taken several choreography courses but this was a different type of experience. I learned a few different things about myself. One of the main things being that I am capable of pushing past my limits and still succeeding. Joel is a truly amazing teacher and I'm thankful to have experienced this class.
- I learned a lot from this course and it wasn't at all what I expected. I really grew as a dancer by taking this course, and from professor Joel. He was such a great professor throughout the entire quarter and I greatly appreciate all the lessons I learned from him. He has such a wide knowledge about dance and I am going to take what I learned into the next chapter of my dance education. I like how he took the time to meet each one of us to tell us how we're doing in class and how we can further our knowledge of choreography. This course really challenged me as a dancer physically and mentally and it has helped me to overcome my insecurity and not be so quick to judge myself. I'm glad I had Joel as my professor because he's amazing at what he does and I learned so much from him. So thank you to Joel.

- I am extremely thankful for Joel. Taking his class has made me step out of comfort zone. He always made me feel good about myself and inspired me to try my hardest.
- I enjoyed being enrolled in this class. I believe a main part of why I felt so easily transitioned into such a class is because Joel kept it real with us. Whether it was him being concerned about what we've learned or even mourning, he kept it 100% with us till the last day. He made sure we heard him and understood what we were learning; especially as that class could easily seem like a bunch of randomness if not taken seriously. So I definitely appreciate Joel for being who is in that way and even in telling/ showing us what it is to be a critical thinker of dance, life, and lastly, showing us what it means to be a compassionate person. There are so many things he, intentionally and even unintentionally, has taught us that I just learned to appreciate over the quarter. In addition, I felt like the class really helped my creativity when it came to my UCR's dancing rehearsals as well. Coming into this quarter, I had a lot of fear in running the rehearsals because I feel the last time I had an opportunity similar to this, I failed and grew much shame for. But because of his teachings and elaborations upon his lessons, it gave me the right information to know in order to run rehearsals smoothly and shamelessly. I even started running my rehearsals kind of similar to the class to create more of a learning environment rather than just a space to trade movement. I love giving meaning, and knowing the meaning or value behind what I do and his exercises he's given over the quarter has allowed me to explore more of what is possible to do just those things. Lastly, I am appreciative because Joel created such a space that allowed me to question and challenge myself willingly. By the end, I felt so open to doing what's different to my everyday dance. I felt open to exploring the endless options even if it wasn't anything "special". It helped inspire me to even being more open to myself and creating things that I never thought I would've created for myself (let alone, do in front of people). I am appreciative I was given such knowledge and a space to apply that knowledge - not to show, but to experiment with. Experimentation is awesome and this class has allowed me to see just that. I am immensely appreciative!!!