

DEL Institute Course Descriptions 2024-2025

DEL Foundations

Dates: October 14, 2024 – December 22, 2024 (10-week Course)

Course Design: Original course content designed by Jody Gottfried Arnhold and Ann Biddle with contributions from Catherine Gallant and Megan Minturn.

The DEL Foundations online course provides an overview of the key components of the nationally acclaimed DEL model of teaching dance in a wide variety of learning contexts. This 10-week course is based on the highly popular DEL Foundations course that has been taught at DEL 92Y in New York City since DEL's inception in 1995. Updated and modified as an asynchronous learning experience, participants in this course explore DEL's comprehensive and inclusive model of dance education with a specific focus on the DEL Dance Framework based on Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) as applied to dance education and culturally responsive pedagogy as frameworks for dynamic dance making and scaffolded lesson planning. Participants interact in the online community by engaging in collaborative dance-making, practice teaching, and self and peer reflection. In addition, participants gain an understanding of broad developmental benchmarks and effective and inspired teaching strategies to support diverse learners and align with local, state, and/or national dance standards. Finally, participants in this course articulate a vision statement that represents their core Teacher's Heart and consider applications of the DEL Model to one's unique teaching context. The DEL Foundations curriculum is aligned with the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts: Dance Pre-K – 12, and the National Core Arts Standards in Dance (NCCAS).

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy In Dance Education

Dates: January 6, 2025 - February 16, 2025 (6-week course)

Course Design: Course content by Dr. Nyama McCarthy Brown and course design by Ann Biddle, MA.

In this six-module course, participants delve into the key components of cultivating culturally responsive pedagogy in dance education drawing from key video resources created especially for DEL by Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown.

The course is built around Dr. McCarthy-Brown's curated videos and additional resources designed to guide dance educators through a process of self-examination and teacher reflection; as well as provide culturally responsive teaching tools. Participants will examine how culture, identity, and race show up in their teaching practice and will be asked to reflect on how race and other marginalizing stereotypes operate in their learning environments. In addition, participants will be given building blocks of culturally responsive teaching strategies to de-center Whiteness in the dance classroom.

Dance Making: Ages and Stages

Dates: March 3, 2025 - April 13, 2025 (6-week course)

NOTE: DEL Institute participants will have the option of choosing one of the following course offerings under this category:

- **Dance in Early Childhood**
- **Dance in Elementary School**
- **Dance in Middle School/High School**

Each six-week asynchronous course focuses on delving into the DEL Dance Framework as applied to different age groups and developmental stages. Participants will explore how to embed engaging dance-making experiences into their lesson and unit plans, utilizing the DEL Dance Framework of Body, Effort, Space, and Relationship to generate student-centered choreography. Different entry points for dance-making for diverse student populations will be explored, offering dancers unlimited possibilities for creating innovative dances for themselves, their students, and the community. Each course is designed to guide dance educators to encourage students in a particular age/grade level to create material in an authentic, expansive, and self-directed way through collaborative decision-making that allows students to deeply engage in the creative process and gain empowered ownership of their artistry.

Embodied Dance History

Dates: April 28, 2025 - June 8, 2025 (6-week course)

Course Design: Ann Biddle, MA and Felice Santorelli, Ed.M.

Embodied Dance History is a six-module 6-week asynchronous course designed for dance educators who want to re-imagine American modern dance history through the lens of embodied and inquiry-based learning. Course content is derived from the DEL at Jacob's Pillow DELving into Dance History series, created by Ann Biddle and Felice Santorelli, and investigates dance artists through multiple contextual lenses to gain a holistic and more inclusive understanding of dance history. Participants will engage in collaborative research, have access to multi-modal course resources and primary sources, and interact with the rich content on the Jacob's Pillow interactive site.

Dance and Culture - Tracing Footsteps Journey into Jazz Dance - Let's Swing!

Dates: June 23, 2025 - August 3, 2025 (6-week course)

Course Design: Dawn DiPasquale with contributions from Tracing Footsteps Journey into Jazz Dance- Let's Swing! curriculum team

In this 6-module course, participants will delve into the DEL Tracing Footsteps Journey into Jazz Dance - Let's Swing! curriculum, created in response to the need to provide free high-quality remote learning dance education instruction and materials to all NYC public school students K-12. Journey into Jazz Dance

- Let's Swing! focuses on the Africanist roots of early Jazz dance and the emergence of the Lindy Hop in New York City during the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920's - 1940's.

In this course, participants will receive an overview of the Tracing Footsteps curricular model, explore components of the grade-specific dance units, engage in culturally responsive pedagogy practices, identify innovative remote learning instructional practices, and apply the DEL model to collaborative dance-making and lesson plan design. Through embodied practice, collective inquiry, and exposure to a wide range of resources (guest dance artists and facilitators, video tutorials, and visually stimulating teaching materials), participants will learn how to bring dance history to life in their dance classrooms.

Dance and Diverse Learners - A Sensory Approach to Teaching Dance to Students with Disabilities

Dates: August 11, 2025 - September 21, 2025 (6-week course)

Course Design: Course content created by Sandi Stratton-Gonzalez

A Sensory Approach to Teaching Dance to Students with Disabilities is inspired by two principles: all of our students are whole people; and all people deserve full access to dance as an expressive art form. A Sensory Approach begins with foundational information on cultural/historical beliefs about disability, the role of disabled activists and the disability justice movement, and disability legislation. The course explores the seven senses as entry points to designing inclusive dance learning activities for neurodiverse students in multiple teaching settings. These entry points inform dance pedagogy and provide access to dance students with a range of access needs. Participants will review sensory-based teaching strategies and learn to apply these strategies in the dance classroom.

Curriculum Design - Inspiration to Design

Dates: October 6, 2025 - November 16, 2025 (6-week course)

Course Design: Ann Biddle, MA with contributions from Catherine Gallant, MFA

In this six-module asynchronous course, participants delve into the key components of lesson planning and curriculum design using the DEL framework.

Participants learn how to develop scaffolded, developmentally appropriate, and standards-based dance learning activities that draw connections to dance artistry, theme-based learning, and arts integration. Participants learn to design dynamic lessons that align student learning objectives with content and assessments. By the end of the course, participants will write an original six-lesson dance unit to share with their peers. This course also includes one-on-one coaching from DEL Professional Learning & Curriculum Senior Consultant, Ann Biddle, and DEL Facilitator, Catherine Gallant.