The course **DANC 2620 West African Dance Forms/Styles** is designed to assist the student broadening and deepening his/her basic understanding of West African movements, concepts processes, costumes, music and traditional musical instruments, history and culture that embody these movements; and to improve and develop technical skills and artistry.

At the successful completion of the course the student will be able to demonstrate noticeable progress in the practice of the following course content:

A. Movement

Deepening cultural and physical understanding of the derivatives of the traditional oral response to the aesthetic senses of the West African movements as introduced through the West African traditions and culture, which include:

*Polyrhythm

*Polycentrism

*Curvilinear (as seen in form shape and structure)

*Dimensional and

*Repetition

Application of movement genres as a means to provide body support and coordination. Total body articulation, isolation, contraction and pelvic thrust.

Demonstrates rhythmic coordination of body parts in isolation with consistency

Demonstrates polyrhythmic capabilities of intermediate complexity (movement and rhythm in the West African dance world cannot be separated)

Demonstrates polycentrism of body parts in isolation. (Ability to define movement in motion, the body in action at a time frame, not the moving of the body from point A to point B)

Demonstrates dimensionality - (finding texture in movements – graininess that one sees, hears or feels – the extra contraction or extra beat)

Demonstrates repetition of the body parts in consistency (Not the refrain or chorus of a movement, but the intensifying of one movement, one sequence or the entire dance)

B. Dance Vocabulary

Expansion of West African vocabulary/terminology

Introduction to historical/cultural origins of some prominent traditional West African dance forms/style

Introduction to music patterns of dance forms, drum language and music breaks, call-and-response

Introduction to movements in relation to its historical and or cultural background in connection with the tribe it belongs to.

Development of Isolation and contraction exercises to articulate mobility, coordination and fluidity

Exploration of call-and-response between music and the movements, increasingly complex polyrhythm and polycentrism that refine and deepen foundational skills in understanding West African music and dance within its cultural setting of origin

Develop balance, strength and control in increasingly complex phrases

C. Performance

Demonstrates developing competence and consistent application of musicality texture and skills (listening to breaks of the music, embodying phrasing in its cultural context, exploring music texture and body awareness, understanding the drum rhythms and breaks.

Demonstrates competency in understanding the dynamic range of being smooth in authenticity, transitioning, and projection in the performance/execution of movement material and the use of costume.

Demonstrates understanding and intermediate level application of polyrhythm and polycentrism found in West African dance.

Execution of two different traditional West African dance forms from two different tribes in West Africa, requiring application of movement and live music material and the inclusion of full body investment, projection, and an expressive authentic qualities as depicted by the tribal group in an evaluated performance context