

Dava D. Hernández, Gluck Fellow in Critical Dance Studies

“*Baila la Cumbia*/Dance the Cumbia”

Abstract:

“*Baila la Cumbia – Dance the Cumbia*” is a workshop that invites students to experience the popular dance and music traditions of *cumbia*. *Cumbia* originated on the Caribbean coast of Colombia but has migrated through Central and South America and Mexico with lots of variations emerging. *Cumbia* is undoubtedly one of the most danced musical styles for many Latina/o/x communities. In this workshop, students will learn about three different *cumbia* dance traditions: *Cumbia Colombiana*, *Cumbia Tejana*, and *Cumbia Wepa*. First, we begin in Colombia, where *cumbia* originated. Students will learn a basic side-to-side step. Next, students will learn a back-step in the style of *cumbia Tejana*, a social dance from South Texas and its U.S./Mexico borderland communities. Lastly, students will learn about *cumbia Wepa*, which comes from Mexico and incorporates norteño music and a *cumbia* step that requires small hops. “*Baila la Cumbia-Dance the Cumbia*” teaches students about *cumbia* dance with a focus on rhythm and coordination. Moreover, this workshop stresses the appreciation of culture through a dance and music tradition well-known in many Latina/o/x communities.

Target Audience: K – 2nd grade, 3rd-6th grade

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By using this Digital DIY Curriculum students will

1) Develop dance literacy and vocabulary. 2) Students will develop coordination and musicality. 3) Students will make social, cultural, and historical connections through dance.

Dava D. Hernández is a Ph.D. candidate in Critical Dance Studies at the University of California, Riverside researching dancing and performing bodies from early twentieth century Mexican American *carpas* or traveling tent shows. Hernández holds an MA in Dance and a graduate certificate in Multicultural Women’s Studies from Texas Woman’s University. She also holds a BA in Mexican American Studies with a concentration in Literary Studies from the University of Texas, San Antonio. Hernández was a long-time member of the Guadalupe Dance Company, one of the nation’s leading professional folklórico and flamenco dance companies and has been involved in various dance-theater productions throughout the U.S. Southwest. She taught Dance throughout San Antonio including Palo Alto College and San Antonio College. She also taught *Dance History*, *Dance and Globalization*, and *Urban and Global Dance Practices* at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas. Hernández currently enjoys being a teaching assistant for *Introduction to Dance* and *Dance: Cultures and Contexts* at UCR and a lecturer for *Contemporary Folklórico* at California State University, San Marcos.

Gluck Creative Classroom Digital DIY files:

Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia Syllabus.pdf
Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia.pdf
Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia.mp4

Dance Instruction

Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia Colombiana.mp4
Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia Tejana.mp4
Baila la Cumbia/Dance the Cumbia Wepa.mp4