

DANC128 SEC 0101 – Fundamentals of Ballet – Fall 2013

Instructor: Curtis W. Stedge

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Course Description

Introduction to ballet technique and terminology for the beginning student.

Expanded Course Description

This class is an introduction to ballet technique intended for students with little or no previous training. Working individually as well as in groups, the course will discuss ballet terminology, aesthetics, and values with the goal of demonstrating an understanding of those topics in class performance and in application to a creative project. This class is a container, a form in which the student will gain a greater understanding and awareness of their body through the practice of ballet.

Course Goals

Upon completion of the course, the student can expect to:

- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the expressive nature of ballet as an art form through participation and performance.
- Demonstrate appropriate studio etiquette.
- Recognize and demonstrate a working vocabulary for ballet technique.
- Recognize and demonstrate correct placement, alignment, and proper positions for the feet and arms.
- Recognize and demonstrate proper technique and sequence of stretching, barre exercises, center work, and locomotor movement.
- Demonstrate a command of dance critique language and develop an expressed point of view toward performative material.
- Apply corrections and self-evaluate to progress.
- Live in process: approach the learning continuum as a duality of deconstruction and rebuilding.

Physical Contact

Dance education, as a physical practice, works best with a combination of demonstration and hands-on contact to help the training body understand alignment, balance, and extension. This includes tactile cues on the limbs, head and neck, and torso. Please notify me if you are not comfortable with physical contact, and I will respect your wishes and privacy.

Course Materials

Textbooks: There is no textbook, however short readings in PDF format will be available on ELMS.

Please bring to each class:

- Journal or notebook;
- Pen or pencil;
- Water bottle and small towel;
- Appropriate dance clothes.
 - **Dress Code**
 - **Women:** Leotard (any color), pink tights, pink ballet slippers.

- **Men:** Tank or ballet t-shirt, dance belt, black tights/leggings, black ballet slippers.
- **Hair:** Must be neat, pulled away from neck and face.
- **Jewelry:** Small post or hoop earrings only. No rings, bracelets or necklaces.
- **Sweats** and/or leg warmers are recommended.
- **Not Allowed:** jazz pants, baggy clothing of any type, watches, dangling jewelry, hats, gum.

Course Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation** (500 pts.)

Attendance: Prompt, prepared, consistent attendance and in-class, active participation are integral components of all dance classes. Students may miss no more than two (2) classes without penalty to their grade. Each unexcused absence afterwards, will negatively affect their grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY of the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies: Regular attendance and active, in-class participation are integral components of all dance and theatre classes and seminars. Although instructors are responsible for informing each class of the nature of in-class participation and the effect of absences on the evaluation of a student's work, the School's general attendance policy on excused absences is consistent with the University's policy, which allows students to be excused for the following causes:

1. Illness of the student* or illness of a dependent as defined by the Board of Regents policy on family medical leave
2. Religious observance
3. Participation in University activities at the request of University authorities
4. Compelling circumstances beyond the student's control

*In May 2011, the University Senate and President passed a new policy for granting excused absences, which can be found at:

<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html>.

A student may provide a self-signed note when missing a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory per semester, with the understanding that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. Self-signed notes are not accepted during "Major Scheduled Grading Events." Specific questions concerning the TDPS policy on non-consecutive medical absences should be addressed with the Head of the Program.

Students claiming an excused absence must apply in writing and furnish documentary evidence for their assertion that the absence resulted from one of these causes. (Undergraduate Catalog, pages 36 & 37 or go to: <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html>)

When possible, instructors will make a reasonable effort to re-schedule in-class presentations for students with an authorized excused absence. Students should check the specific requirements of their courses carefully, however, as such re-scheduling is not always possible.

Religious Observance Policy: University of Maryland Policies and Procedures Concerning Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observances provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a

reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed because of individual participation in religious observances. Students are responsible for obtaining material missed during their absences. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. The student should provide written notification to the professor, by hand (not through email or mailbox delivery) within the first two weeks of the semester. The notification must identify holiday(s) and date(s). <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii510a.html>

Late Arrival: Arriving late or leaving early will count as one-half (1/2) of an absence. Walking in late to a dance class violates a code of etiquette in dance training. Out of respect for your fellow students, yourself, and I, please arrive early. Do not use the studio to change and/or fix your hair. This should be done before entering the studio.

Observing Class: If you are well enough to attend class, but unable to dance, or if you are late to class, you will be expected to write a one (1) to two (2) page commentary based on class observations. These will be due the same day as the observed class, before midnight. Failure to submit on time will result in an absence for that class. Commentaries should include:

- Choose three (3) exercises performed during class.
- Describe feedback given to students regarding those exercises.
- Describe aspects of these exercises that your colleagues do well.
- Describe aspects of these exercises that challenge your colleagues.
- Describe how you might apply these observations to your own dancing.

Participation: Just showing up to class does not mean that a student will necessarily earn all participation points. A student must be prepared, actively participate, and be fully engaged in the material. Students' grade will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Adherence to dress code;
- Classroom etiquette;
- Personal growth/technical development.

- **Mid-Term Practicum (100 pts.) – October 31, 2013**

The mid-term is a practical exam given in the form of a ballet class, including barre work, center work, and travelling sequences. Students will be videotaped and asked to turn in a written evaluation of their performance. This should include the following:

- Comment on your overall performance.
- How has your dancing changed over the course of the semester?
- What progress do you hope to make for the next practicum?
- What do you need in order to achieve these goals?

- **Final Practicum (100 pts) – December 3, 2013**

The final is a practical exam given in the form of a ballet class, including barre work, center work, and travelling sequences. Students will be videotaped and asked to turn in a written evaluation of their performance. This should include the following:

- Comment on your overall performance.
- How has your dancing changed over the course of the semester?
- What progress do you hope to make for the next practicum?
- What do you need in order to achieve these goals?

Written Assignments

- **Critical Response Paper (100 pts.)**
Due: December 1, 2013

Students will choose one (1) live performance to attend from the choices listed on the course calendar in ELMS. Students must discuss the artistic elements (choreographic choices, sound design, lighting design, set design, etc.) that they notice. Discuss what those choices mean and how they connect to your ballet class. The paper must be 2-3 pages, double-spaced, in 12pt font, with 1" margins. You may turn in the paper anytime before, and up to, the due date.

- **Class Journal** (33 1/3 pts. Each submission)

Due: October 8, November 7, and December 10, 2013

Using the performance evaluation rubric, students will assess their comprehension and mastery of movement, its technical components (alignment, use of turnout, weight distribution, port de bras, quality of the legs and feet and body coordination, kinesthetic awareness, spatial awareness, musicality, etc.). Students will discuss the challenges they discovered as well as the progress they have made in their class and anything else they wish to comment on, positive or negative, about their class experience.

Maintain, in your own fashion, an on-going record of vocabulary and movement concepts regarding such issues as alignment, turnout, and execution of particular steps. This will reinforce, daily, new information.

Projects

- **Final Project** (100 pts.) **December 12, 2013**

Using the movements or concepts that resonated most strongly with you and your lab group, choreograph a short dance that will be performed in class. Please do not regurgitate class combinations. The goal is to take the information you have learned and create something new. Grading will be based on clarity of ideas, creativity in adapting the ideas, and teamwork. If you are unavailable to perform, you must notify me within the first two weeks of classes.

Grading Rubric

A+	1000-970	B+	899-870	C+	799-770	D+	699-670	F	599-0
A	969-930	B	869-830	C	769-730	D	669-630		
A-	929-900	B-	829-800	C-	729-700	D-	629-600		

Plus Minus Grades: The implementation of plus minus grade factoring began in fall 2012. Under the new policy, quality points for each letter grade from A through D will reflect plus and minus components of the grade, as shown below. The plus/minus system will apply to both undergraduate and graduate courses. A+ = 4.0, A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.7, D+ = 1.3, D = 1.0, D- = 0.7, F = 0. The University's present marking system defining the standards for letter grades is retained under the new plus/minus policy. The present marking system is as follows:

A+, A, A- denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship

B+, B, B- denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship

C+, C, C- denotes acceptable mastery of the subject

D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and unsatisfactory progress toward a degree

F denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance

Students are required to earn a grade of at least C- in their major and have a minimum 2.0

Cumulative GPA in their major in order to graduate.

<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html>

Elms Site Instructions for Students

LOGGING INTO Canvas:

1. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu>.
2. Click on Login on the far left side of the page
3. Type in your ID in the box labeled Username
4. Enter your Directory password in the Password box
5. In the top of the page, under the heading "Courses & Groups," there should be a link for this course. Click on that link
6. Important announcements will appear on Canvas, so be sure to check it daily.

Honor Code: The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, proposed and administered by the Student Honor Council and approved by the University Senate. The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads:

"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination."

Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all exams, papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course. Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor. Please recognize that all students are subject to the requirements of the University's Code of Academic Integrity whether or not they write and sign the Honor Pledge.

For more information: <http://www.orientation.umd.edu/VirtualFolder/academicintegrity.pdf>

Accommodating Individuals Who Have Disabilities: The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities that have been documented by Disability Support Services (0106 Shoemaker Building, 301-314-7682). A disability should be verified and discussed with Disability Support Services and the student should provide an "Accommodation Letter" to the professor or TA. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this class, please contact the professor or TA no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. For more information: <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>

Copyright Note: Class lectures and other materials are copyrighted and they may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from the instructor.

Emergency Protocol: Discussions and assignments will continue to be provided on ELMs.

Statement on Civility: The College of Arts and Humanities is expected to be a diverse, open and tolerant arena within which all ideas, whether popular or not, may be freely discussed without rancor. The instructors of this course are committed to creating an open and accepting environment in which diversity, unique perspectives, and others' worldviews are respected. Demeaning, intimidating or threatening behavior is unacceptable and contrary to our basic values. As citizens of the University, we take the lead in producing, and take pride in sustaining, an environment that is characterized by tolerance, respect and civility. This is the hallmark of a college that welcomes and values diverse perspectives, intellectual pluralism and the free and open exchange of ideas.

Sexual Harassment Policy: University of Maryland is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which students, faculty, and staff can develop intellectually, professionally, personally, and socially, free of intimidation, fear, coercion, and reprisal. The Campus prohibits sexual harassment which is a violation of law and University policy. Individuals who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. The University has

procedures in place to report sexual harassment and correct it when it occurs. Students who have questions may call the Campus Compliance Officer (301-405-2839), or the Legal Office (301-405-4945). To read the entire Policy see Appendix B in the Undergraduate Catalog. <http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html>

and

<http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/52/s/943>