



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Department of
Dance & Theatre

DANC 1600.001 - FOUNDATIONS OF HIP HOP

Fall 2026

Instructor	Adrienne Sherice Khouri
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Classroom	DATH 129
Meeting	Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:55-5:15 PM
Virtual Office Hours	Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:00-3:45 PM, or by appointment
Office / Office Phone	N/A
Credit Hours	TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Official Catalog Description: To be inserted from the UNT course catalog.

Foundations of Hip Hop introduces students to Hip Hop dance as a cultural practice, movement form, and evolving creative language. The course progresses from Old School to New School to the current generation, examining how Hip Hop movement has developed and transformed across generations, communities, and performance spaces.

Through movement practice, freestyle, choreography, discussion, readings, videos, reflection, and performance, students will examine not only how movement is performed, but who created and contributed to it, why it developed, who it served, how it has changed, and how they can responsibly use what they learn within their own artistic practice.

COURSE GUIDING FRAMEWORK

WHO -> WHY -> HOW -> NOW -> ME

- WHO - Who created, developed, influenced, and contributed to the movement?
- WHY - Why did these movements and practices emerge?
- HOW - How is the movement embodied through rhythm, groove, musicality, individuality, and community?
- NOW - How has Hip Hop evolved and where do we see its foundations today?
- ME - What is my relationship to what I have learned, and how will I carry it forward?

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify foundational contributors, communities, movement practices, and significant developments within Hip Hop dance.
2. Discuss Hip Hop within its cultural and historical contexts.
3. Demonstrate foundational concepts including groove, rhythm, musicality, weight, bounce, social dance, and freestyle.
4. Recognize relationships between music, movement, culture, and community.
5. Differentiate influences associated with Old School, New School, and current generations of Hip Hop.
6. Apply foundational concepts to freestyle, choreography, improvisation, and performance.
7. Create original movement while identifying and acknowledging its influences.
8. Examine commercialization, representation, cultural ownership, appropriation, and credit within Hip Hop.
9. Collaborate professionally during movement exploration, rehearsal, choreography, and performance.
10. Perform with increased clarity, musicality, individuality, stylistic awareness, and presence.

11. Reflect on their relationship to Hip Hop and how they may responsibly carry what they learn into future artistic practices.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

This is a movement-based course. Your growth will come from showing up, participating, asking questions, practicing, reflecting, and remaining open to learning.

Students enter with different experiences and levels of familiarity with Hip Hop. You are not expected to already know everything. You are expected to engage, remain curious, take creative risks, receive feedback, respect your classmates and the communities connected to the material, and demonstrate growth throughout the semester.

Check Canvas and your UNT email regularly for announcements, assignments, resources, and schedule updates.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RESOURCES

There is no required textbook currently planned.

- Comfortable movement clothing and appropriate footwear
- Water
- Notebook or digital note-taking device
- Reliable access to Canvas, UNT email, and the internet

Required readings, articles, interviews, videos, and other course materials will be provided through Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Hip Hop Knowledge & Goals

Beginning-of-semester reflection documenting existing knowledge, experiences, and goals.

Written/Media Responses

Short Canvas assignments connected to readings, videos, history, cultural context, pioneers, current practices, and course discussions.

Midterm Creative Project

Students will create choreographic material demonstrating concepts and influences explored during the first half of the semester.

Fall Dance Concert

Students will participate as a performer, understudy, or approved production-support participant.

Final Creative Project

Collaborative final performance demonstrating movement retention, musicality, performance quality, cultural understanding, and collaboration.

Final Reflection

Students revisit their Week 1 goals and reflect on their development throughout the semester.

FALL DANCE CONCERT - REQUIRED

November 12-15, 2026 | University Theatre

Participation in the Fall Dance Concert is a required course component and contributes significantly to course assessment. The structure and organization of the work will be determined by the instructor based on the artistic process and needs of the concert.

Performers

- Participate in assigned rehearsals.
- Attend the required technical/lighting rehearsal.
- Perform in all four concert performances.

Understudies / Non-Performing Participants

- Serve as an understudy or in another approved production-support role.
- Attend the required technical/lighting rehearsal.
- Attend all four concert performances.
- Complete a written dance analysis of selected concert works in place of performing.

Specific rehearsal, call, and technical schedules will be provided when available.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Because this is a studio course, learning depends heavily on work completed during class. Students are allowed two absences. Beginning with the third absence, the overall course grade will be lowered by 5%. A fourth absence may result in a failing grade for the course.

University-authorized absences and qualifying circumstances will be handled according to UNT policy. Students should communicate absences as early as possible.

Two tardies and/or early departures generally equal one absence. Students arriving significantly late may be asked to observe rather than participate if they have missed the necessary warm-up.

INJURY, ILLNESS & OBSERVATION

Students experiencing an injury or physical limitation should communicate with the instructor so movement may be adapted when possible. Adapted participation may include modifying choreography, reducing range of motion, eliminating impact, working seated, or completing another approved activity.

Observation is reserved for circumstances in which movement participation is not appropriate. Students approved to observe must remain attentive and may be required to complete written observation notes.

STUDIO ETIQUETTE & PROFESSIONALISM

- Arrive prepared to move and dressed appropriately; clothing must allow freedom of movement.
- Hair and jewelry should not create a safety concern.
- Respect the instructor, classmates, studio, and cultural material being studied.
- No gum or food in the studio; water is permitted.
- Phones should be silenced and put away unless used for an instructor-approved activity.
- Contribute positively to individual, partner, and group work.

WRITTEN WORK & LATE WORK

Written assignments will generally be submitted through Canvas by the posted deadline and should demonstrate college-level thought, effort, and engagement. Assignment-specific requirements will be provided on Canvas.

If circumstances interfere with your ability to meet a deadline, communicate with the instructor. Extensions are not automatic and should be discussed before the deadline whenever possible.

GENERATIVE AI

Limited use of Generative AI is permitted.

Tools such as ChatGPT may support brainstorming, organization, clarification, or learning when appropriate; they should support your thinking, not replace it. Personal reflections, movement analyses, choreographic explanations, and assignments requiring your individual perspective must represent your own thinking and experience.

When an assignment permits or requires AI, specific instructions will be provided. Unauthorized use of AI or submission of AI-generated work as your own may constitute an academic-integrity violation.

GRADING

Category	Weight
Participation & Attendance	25%
Technique / Movement Development	15%
Written & Canvas Assignments	15%
Midterm / Fall Dance Concert	20%
Final Creative Project	20%
Final Reflection	5%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale: A = 90-100 | B = 80-89 | C = 70-79 | D = 60-69 | F = below 60

EXTRA CREDIT

Students may earn extra credit by attending approved dance performances or festivals. Attendance at two approved events = credit equivalent to one excused regular assignment.

- September 4 - kNOWBOX 8th Annual Film Festival Soft Opening, Fort Worth Museum of Art
- September 11-12 - Jordan Fuchs Dance Company, Texas Woman's University
- October 3 - kNOWBOX 8th Annual Film Festival, Bath House Cultural Center, Dallas

Additional opportunities may be announced on Canvas. The UNT Fall Dance Concert does not count as extra credit for this course because participation is already required.

FALL 2026 COURSE CALENDAR

Dates	Focus	Major Work
Aug. 17 & 19	Welcome; syllabus; What is Hip Hop?	Hip Hop Knowledge & Goals
Aug. 24 & 26	The Birth of Hip Hop: Bronx, community, block parties, DJs, MCs, graffiti, dance	
Aug. 31 & Sept. 2	Foundations: breaking, the break, groove, rhythm, music/movement relationship	What Is Hip Hop?
Sept. 7	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	
Sept. 9	Old School social/party dances; groove, bounce, rocking, freestyle	
Sept. 14 & 16	Pioneers & Communities; founders, innovators, Black and Latino contributions	Who Built This?
Sept. 21 & 23	Breaking & Battle Culture: cyphers, battles, individuality, competition, improvisation	
Sept. 28 & 30	Social Dance -> Choreography; movement into performance	Midterm development
Oct. 5 & 7	Midterm Creative Project	Midterm
Oct. 12 & 14	New School: changing vocabulary, crews, regional influence, new generations	
Oct. 19 & 21	Hip Hop Goes Mainstream: music videos, commercial dance, studios, film/TV	
Oct. 26 & 28	Women & Representation in Hip Hop	
Nov. 2 & 4	This Generation: social media, viral movement, competition, commercial choreography	What Are We Contributing?
Nov. 9 & 11	Fall Dance Concert preparation; influence, ownership & credit	
Nov. 12-15	FALL DANCE CONCERT - REQUIRED	
Nov. 16 & 18	Post-concert reflection; finding your voice; transition to final	
Nov. 23-29	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS	
Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	Final rehearsal / Dance Final preparation	
TBD	Dance Final - Collective Hip Hop Performance	Date/time/place TBD
Dec. 7-11	University Finals Week	Final Reflection Due

FINAL REFLECTION

Before completing the final reflection, students will reread their Hip Hop Knowledge & Goals response from Week 1.

If you know where Hip Hop came from, understand why it exists, and recognize the people who built it - what will you do with it?

Students should consider what they learned, how their understanding changed, which people, movements, or communities affected their thinking, how their movement practice developed, and where they may take this knowledge next.

UNT POLICIES & STUDENT SUPPORT

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the UNT Honor Code and Student Academic Integrity Policy 06.003. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, unauthorized assistance, or representing another person's or AI-generated work as your own may result in academic consequences consistent with university policy.

Disability Accommodations

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, students must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA), provide required documentation, and request a letter of accommodation each semester. Once a letter is issued, students should communicate with the instructor as early as possible so approved accommodations can be implemented.

Emergency Notifications

UNT uses Eagle Alert to communicate critical information regarding emergencies, severe weather, campus closures, and other safety concerns. If a university closure affects this course, students should check Canvas and UNT email for updated instructions.

Classroom Community & Student Support

Students are expected to contribute to a learning environment grounded in respect, professionalism, and constructive engagement. UNT provides academic, accessibility, mental-health, wellness, and student-support resources; students are encouraged to use these resources when needed.

SYLLABUS & CALENDAR CHANGES

This syllabus and course calendar represent the planned structure of the semester. Adjustments may be necessary because of performance schedules, instructional needs, university closures, or other circumstances. Students will receive reasonable notice through Canvas and/or UNT email when substantive changes are made.

COURSE GUIDING QUESTION

WHO -> WHY -> HOW -> NOW -> ME

If you know where Hip Hop came from, understand why it exists, and recognize the people who built it - what will you do with it?