

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Dance & Theatre
Spring 2024

DANC 2250: Choreography II
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 - 3:50 PM
Friday 2:00 - 3:50 PM
DATH 131

Faculty Information

Name of Instructor: Emily Jensen (She/Her)
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Office Location: 103J
Student Hours: By Appointment



Teaching Philosophy (Excerpt): I feel that learning is an ongoing, evolving, and continuous process. Everything we take in is something that informs, introduces, reinforces, adapts, transforms, or questions – regardless if that stems from academic readings, passing conversations, things we witness, or even long walks we take. In this sense, I believe that we learn by doing. This means that learning draws connections, considers new perspectives, tries unfamiliar things, and forms artistic views with *agency*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

2250. Choreography II. 3 hours. (3;3) Theory and practice of movement exploration for use in establishing expressive movement patterns to be structured into short dance compositions. Three hours weekly of lecture and movement plus a minimum of 60 clock hours in a movement laboratory. Prerequisite(s): DANC 1250 and concurrent enrollment in DANC 2400, 3400, or 4400. Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment with Dance Technique Levels III, IV, V, VI, VII, or VIII.

Explorations of choreographic tools with an emphasis on stage space, dynamic structure, rhythmic pattern, chance composition, and site specific dance. This course is designed to guide student creativity and expand perspective. Students will create movement ideas found through exploring and engaging choreographic voices in solo and collaborative compositions. Students will also direct and develop constructive feedback and critical thinking skills by discussing choreographic works and processes as a collective. Students are encouraged to challenge their artistic vision as well as craft in creating.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook: Blom, Lynne Anne, and L. Tarin Chaplin. *The Intimate Act of Choreography*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994.

Videos/films may be shown in class or may be required for viewing from online video databases, which will be shared via Canvas.

Additional resources NOT required for purchase:

Burrows, Johnathan. *A Choreographer's Handbook*.

Black Dance Stories: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChAdMkDQCaGWClaBoSZirTg/videos>

Critical Correspondence: <https://movementresearch.org/publications/critical-correspondence>

Dance and Stuff: <https://www.danceandstuff.com/the-podcast>

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. New York: Grove, 1959.

kNOwBOX dance Dance Behind the Screen Podcast: <http://www.knowboxdance.com/podcast.html>

Movement Research Performance Journal: <https://movementresearch.org/publications/performance-journal>

OntheBoards.tv: <https://www.ontheboards.tv/performances>

The Dance Union: <https://www.thedanceunion.com/podcast>

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop improvisational movement scores to generate and explore movement vocabulary as demonstrated through compositional studies.
2. Demonstrate a variety of methods for assembling movement into phrases and phrases into sections, as demonstrated through compositional studies.
3. Cultivate appropriate strategies for editing, refining, embellishing, and amplifying movement content, as demonstrated through compositional studies and written assignments.
4. Analyze in verbal and written critiques one's own movement compositions and the movement compositions of one's peers through course discussion and written assignments.
5. Synthesize tools and techniques learned over the course of the semester by creating a final choreographic project.

Each of the above student learning outcomes must be performed at an appropriate level as stated in each course assignment requirements, grading scale, or rubric.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**COURSE ETIQUETTE**

- Arrive on time and ready to engage in creative dance practices, discussion, etc. This means arriving ahead of class time to stow belongings and enter the dancing space ready for class by the designated class period and using the bathroom before or after class.

- Remove street shoes before entering the studio. No chewing gum, and no food/beverages other than water in the studio during class. Attire must allow freedom for movement.
- Cell phones will not be permitted unless explicitly used for a research tool when asked to during class. PLEASE SILENCE THEM.
- Be kind to your fellow classmates. We will be giving constructive critiques and will help each other progress in our artistic journey.
- You will be expected to work on your own and in groups. Recognize the pace in which you work and allot the necessary time to complete your assignments

ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING POLICY

Rubrics for each of the following activities will be supplied by the instructor.

1. Daily In-Class Participation	55%
2. Periodic Assessments	45%
• Journals/Homework/Concert Papers	15%
• Mini-Composition Studies	15%
• Final Composition	15%

Concert Attendance Requirement

An important part of the educational experience in the performing arts is developing an understanding of how dance, music, and theatre are unique yet interrelated art forms. Critical to becoming literate in the arts is being exposed to a variety of types of performances and having the opportunity to consider how meaningful worlds are created by choreographers, directors, composers, actors, musicians and dancers. Furthermore, as an interdisciplinary department committed to collaborative art making endeavors, we all should share a commitment to supporting the work of our colleagues and fellow artists.

This class requires all students to attend two concerts during the semester. One must bring ticket information and write a one double page paper describing one dance. Teacher will give further information on the requirements for the paper. **Some suggested performance resources...**

- UNT dance concerts
- TITUS/DANCE UNBOUND presents
- TWU dance concerts
- Tejas Dance presents
- Bruce Woods
- Dallas Black Dance Theatre
- Texas Ballet Theatre
- Local community or high school dance performances

Daily Grading and Evaluation:

A student may receive 10 points per day based on the following grading criteria:

"A" 9-10 pts (Daily) This is an exceptional grade for distinctly superior work. Every aspect is of exceptional quality. This grade is reserved for a very few who are at the top of the class, an exception rather than the rule. The student demonstrates a clear ability to understand and articulate the concepts presented, has thoroughly

mastered the subject, displays marked initiative and exhibits intellectual curiosity. The student shows a full range of cognitive and physical skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

"B" 8-9pts (Daily) This is an above average grade for achievement of the highest order.

This grade is reserved for students who are at the top of the class but fall below an "A." The student has fulfilled the requirements and has achieved excellence in all aspects of the work including complete attentiveness, accuracy of knowledge, independence, creativity, and critical thought. The student demonstrates most levels of cognitive and physical skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

"C" 6-7 pts (Daily) The student shows evidence of knowledge about the subjects and is able to analyze concepts. The student may have an open, active, and discriminating mind but demonstrates lower and middle level ability and retention of skills specific to that class particularly knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. This student takes no initiative or leadership in their learning. This is an average grade.

"D" 1-5pts (Daily) The student demonstrates lower level ability and retention of skills specific to the class material, takes no initiative or leadership in learning and is consistently unprepared or unaware of concepts. This student demonstrates lower than average ability and retention of skills specific to that class particularly knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

"F" 0 (Daily) Student is absent.

Attendance Grading Policy for Department of Dance studio classes:

Since performance in studio classes in particular relies almost entirely on work accomplished during each class any absence from class will impact the grade. Students who do not attend the first day of class may be dropped to accommodate those who are on the waitlist.

Students are allowed two (2) absences. There are no excused absences except for personal or family emergencies or a UNT official activity, which the professor needs to approve. On the third absence, your overall grade will drop one letter. **On the fourth absence, you will earn a failing grade for the course.** (UNT allows the instructor to ask the registrar to drop a student with a "WF" upon accumulation of the stated number of absences.)

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of our community.

Students are responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing, providing satisfactory evidence to and delivering the request personally to the faculty member assigned to the course for which the student is absent.

Injuries and Serious Illness

In the event of an injury or serious illness that prevents a student from engaging in any activity for more than two weeks, the student should drop the course rather than risk receiving a failing grade. However, students may continue enrollment in a class by fulfilling minimal participation requirements agreed upon with the teacher until

recovery from the injury or illness allows for return to full participation. (A period of minimal or adapted activity due to injury or illness should not exceed a total of four (4) weeks during any long semester.)

Minimal or adapted participation may be in the form of substituting floor work for standing work, working the upper body while sitting in a chair, adapting choreography assignments to accommodate physical limitations, refraining from jumping, or working

with a reduced range of motion. In addition, an extended Pilates program may be the appropriate course of action during injury recovery. The goal is to maintain physical conditioning and fitness during recovery so that the return to full activity will not compromise health and wellness.

If you are sick, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please reach out to the instructor right away so you and the instructor can create a plan of action to support your education and absences. UNT recommends you follow [CDC guidelines](#) for any COVID 19 related illness. Proof of a positive test will be required.

Lateness and Early Departures: Students should not arrive late to class or ask to leave early. Typically, **(2) tardies and/or early departures will equal one absence**. Students arriving 5 minutes late to class will be deducted 3 points from their daily (10) participation points. 10 minutes late and onward, 5 points will be deducted. In order to ensure all students are properly warmed up and prevent injuries, students arriving 10 minutes late for class may not be allowed to take class.

Observations/Sitting Out: Students should request to observe a class only in exceptional cases -- the expectation is that all students will participate even though the level of activity and kind of activity may be adjusted to accommodate specific health issues. If an observation is approved by the teacher, the student will take notes following specific directions given by the teacher. These notes will be turned in at the conclusion of class. The quality of these notes will determine the student's grade for that particular day. Under no circumstances should students study for other courses during an observation.

Should a student need to sit down during class, they are expected to remain attentive and engaged with the class. Sitting at the front of the studio, watching, and learning through attentive observation, or taking written notes is appropriate. Lying on the floor, sleeping, talking, or texting on a cell phone, or engaging in conversation with other students during class is not considered appropriate. No student should be consistently sitting out as it warrants a low-class participation grade.

LATE-WORK will only be accepted if the student communicates with the instructor, requests an extension, and follows the instructor's guidelines. The instructor is not required to accept late work. Late work may receive diminishing percentage points each day. No late work will receive credit after 7 days past due date.

UNT POLICY STATEMENTS

Principles of Engagement

PoE refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines as provided by UNT:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates. • Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals. • Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!” • Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ODA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Course Safety Procedures (for Laboratory Courses)

Students enrolled in this course are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Access to Information

Eagle Connect. Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.