



**Department of Dance and Theatre**  
**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**  
**SPRING 2024**

**HIP HOP II      DANC 4450.001**

**Monday & Wednesday: 4:30pm -5:50pm**

**Location: DATH 129**

**Instructor: Emi Matsushita**

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**DATH Office Phone: 940-565-1121**

**Office hours: By appointment. Zoom or in-person (in DATH 103J)**

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**Course Description:**

Intermediate to advanced fusion styles of Hip Hop movement and choreography with emphasis on performance for pre-professional and commercial dancers. This course is open to all UNT Students as an advanced credit hour (0;3).

Prerequisites: DANC 3450, placement or by consent of instructor.

This studio course investigates the practical aspects of Hip-Hop dance emphasizing it as a unique culture with roots in global and urban dance forms. This course also highlights its evolution and relevance as a modern dance form. As students build on their understanding of Hip Hop movement, roles of performer, choreographer, and improviser will be explored. Students will embody these roles while engaging in specific dance techniques, performing movement sequences, and learning choreography provided by the instructor. The course also prioritizes the creation of dance phrases based on conceptual frameworks, awareness of somatic principles, socio-cultural norms and values. Additionally, participation in relevant improvisational experiences will be encouraged. Strength & conditioning will be integrated into the daily class structure to further support the artistic capabilities of the students.

The primary objective is to enhance students' range of movement and their ability to effectively and confidently express Hip Hop based movement principles to an audience.

## Course Objectives:

- Build upon their basic understanding of Hip Hop as a dance form and progressive culture.
  - Identify Hip Hop's core components and be able to critically discuss them in regards to form, function, and meaning through a socio-cultural & historical lens.
  - Perform proper Hip Hop techniques, movement phrases, and choreography that highlight the dance form's requisite musicality and style. This will be further developed as students learn how to differentiate between performance qualities and rhythms and are able to display it accurately in performance.
  - Engage in practical applications, open discussions through peer feedback, and self-assessment. Throughout the course, space will be provided for students to actively participate and disseminate the knowledge gained through studio practice, reflection, observation, and exchange with fellow students.
  - Practice their critical thinking, communication, body awareness/competency, and artistic development. Students will display a personal responsibility for their learning and the practical application of knowledge to elevate their dance technique and performance.
  - Display an appropriate level of proficiency and professionalism appropriate for a collegiate course and as required by the specific assignments given throughout the course.
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## Classroom Etiquette & Student Expectations:

- Create a **safe space** by practicing respect, empathy, and maturity at all times. Studying any new practice or art form can leave some individuals feeling uncomfortable and awkward. Intentionally creating a safe space where it is understood that we are all learning is necessary for a successful student experience.
- Come to class prepared. Be ready to show one's progression if required. Turn off cell phones or leave them on silent during class. Students are responsible for their learning and development in the course so they must make the most of the opportunity for themselves. There will be time allotted at the end of most class sessions to record for learning purposes.

- Be ready to start class on time. It is advised to arrive 5-10 minutes earlier so that students can warm-up and/or set themselves up for optimal learning. Warming up will help prevent injuries and strain. If a student needs to change prior to class, they must do so with enough time before the start of class.
- No food or drink during class (**no chewing gum**). Water bottles are acceptable and encouraged.
- Remain open-minded, positive, and eager to learn. Reaching the course objectives successfully (and beyond) will rely on your own attitude and mindset each time you come to class. Be an active participant, don't be afraid to push yourself, and openly allow space to support others in their learning. Daily participation that consists of **FULL involvement** is not only essential in a student's success in the course but also required by the syllabus policies.
- **Check email or Canvas regularly** to stay updated on any last minute updates, notices, or etc. regarding the course.
- Uphold professionalism at all times. This is a university level learning environment and as such, a student is expected to remain professional in all facets of the course. Students should show up in a way that exhibits the serious investment they have in themselves . Practicing respect with the instructor and fellow students by being attentive to others is mandatory. Hip Hop music and its culture may contain potentially offensive material. It is required that students practice maturity and discretion when being exposed to this type of material throughout the course.
- If any behavioral issues arise, the instructor may call on the student to remedy the situation immediately or in extreme cases, may be asked to leave class. If etiquette and expectations continue to NOT be met, students may need to work with the instructor to collaboratively find a solution as soon as possible.
- Review the syllabus and calendar throughout the semester to ensure a thorough understanding of the requirements. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor if further clarification is needed.

## **Attire:**

-Please wear comfortable clothing to allow freedom of movement every day. It is welcome for students to wear attire that exemplifies the characteristics and culture of the dance form (maintaining alignment with the course expectations of professionalism, discretion, and respect). Wearing layers of clothing is recommended to accommodate for fluctuating temperatures. In this course, there will be moments where we will be pausing to discuss content and being still while other times we will be active with our heart rates increased.

-No jeans/denim.

-Hair may be required to be pulled back out of the face when participating in some activities or assessments.

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## **Attendance Policy:**

The University of North Texas' Dance Department has a strict policy regarding attendance in all dance studio classes. This is due to the highly experiential nature of each course which requires a student to show up and fully participate in order to meet the learning objectives of each day. As a result, **accumulating absences** have the risk of negatively impacting a student's overall grade in the course.

- Students are **allowed TWO (2) absences**. On the third absence your overall grade will be lowered by 10%; for example, a 90% becomes an 80%. On the fourth absence, you will earn a failing grade for the course. (UNT allows the instructor to drop a student with a "WF" upon accumulation of the stated number of absences.)
- There are no excused absences **except** for personal or family emergencies or official university activity, which the professor needs to approve. A student must communicate with the instructor within 1 week after the occurrence (absence). The student is then required to submit substantiated documentation which will only be accepted if it is in alignment with UNT Policy 06.039 regarding excused absences. The required documentation to validate an absence must be from valid sources such as doctor, school official, coach, family member, etc. Alternatively, the student can reach out to the Dean of Students to request assistance and advocacy in their

coursework. The Dean of Students will then contact the instructor directly to validate the student's situation and needs.

- Roll will be called each class or on occasion, a sign in sheet will be utilized to record attendance. Signing in for another student on these sheets will not be tolerated.
- If absent from class, a student is expected to learn all missed material before returning to class. They may still engage in any Packback discussions online, if any were assigned. As mentioned in the late work policy below, a student can **ONLY** make up points from missed assignments/assessments by following the protocol for submitting alternative assignments/assessments.

### **Sickness/Injury Policy:**

- o If a student is sick and cannot attend class, they **must** inform the instructor ASAP. This is so the instructor and student can create a plan to mitigate the impact of the absence on the student's learning progress in the course. It is encouraged for students to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in the community.
- o If a student is 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 a collaborative plan of action can be created to support the student's progress and standing in the course. UNT recommends following CDC guidelines for any COVID-19 related illness. Proof of a positive test will be required.
- o If a student missed class due to sickness/injury, it is the student's responsibility to learn all missed material before returning to class **AND** to make up any points from missed assignments via the *alternative assignment/assessment* policy stated below. There is a risk that a negative impact on their grade may occur if their absence is not validated.
- o If an injury or a condition/illness prevents a student from participating fully in course activities, it is still required for the student to be present for class. To be considered active in class participation, the student must still take part in as many aspects of the class as possible that do not put additional strain on their condition (see *Daily Participation* section). The instructor may determine to give the student additional assignments to compensate for the reduced physical participation.

o If the injury/illness/condition impacts the student's engagement in the course significantly, the student may be encouraged to reach out to the Dean of Students for further accommodations. The instructor will then work collaboratively with the student to create a plan to ensure continuing engagement in the course.

o If the injury or condition/illness prevents the student from engaging in any physical activity for more than 2 weeks (with zero physical participation), the instructor may determine that the student should drop, withdraw, or receive an incomplete for the course.

### **Tardiness & Early Departures (Classroom) & Sitting Out Policy:**

- To be able to ensure a smooth class experience every day, students **must** come to class on time. Tardiness is not acceptable. Anyone who is **more than 5 minutes** late will have their tardy documented and points deducted from their daily participation. Students who are more than 10 minutes late to class may be asked to sit out of class due to the risk of injury from omitting a warm-up and may be given alternative assignments.

- Early departures from class are not permitted.

- **Two tardies and/or early departures will equal one absence**, with the potential to lower a students' grade (*See Attendance Policy above*).

- If a student needs to sit out during class due to illness/injury, they are expected to remain attentive and engaged with the class. They will be expected to focus on observation and note-taking, which is turned into the instructor at the end of class. While observing, students should sit at the front of the studio and remain attentive, engaged, and actively taking notes. Students should not study for other courses, lie on the floor, sleep, use their cell phone, or distract other students in side conversations during class. Because participation is imperative to successful learning, no student should be consistently sitting out without a substantial reason. No student should be consistently sitting out as it warrants a low-class participation grade.

### **Late Work, Makeup Work, and Alternative Assignment/Assessment Policy:**

***NO late work is accepted.*** Technical issues are not a valid excuse for missing a deadline. Even if an assignment is submitted one minute late, it will **not** be graded. If there is an issue

submitting on Canvas, a student can email their submission/files directly to the instructor; this submission must also meet the original deadline and will **not** be graded if submitted late.

Typically, a student **can not** make up points for a missed assignment/assessment OR late submission without following the protocol outlined in the attendance policy. If documentation is provided and approved to validate a student's reason for not submitting an assignment/assessment on time, the student must coordinate with the instructor to determine a remedial plan within 1 week of the occurrence. At times, they may be asked to submit an alternative assignment/assessment to make up for any points missed.

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### **Course Evaluation Procedures:**

#### **Daily Participation:**

Majority of your learning will be dependent on daily class participation. Your willingness to fully engage and work hard consistently will be weighed heavily throughout the course. In order to achieve an exemplary grade in this course, the expectation is that you will consistently work to observe and uphold classroom etiquette, student expectations, and thoroughly complete assignments. It is also mandatory to abide by the attendance policy.

Daily Participation includes:

- o Partaking in the practical application of techniques, concepts, forms, etc.
- o Observing peers' practices in class and providing constructive feedback when requested
- o Actively listening to instructor or peers
- o Contributing to classroom discussions on topics (sharing insights, asking questions, etc.)
- o Engaging fully in group work activities throughout the term
- o Consistent attendance (see Attendance Policy)
- o If sitting out for any reason to only observe class, see section on "Sitting Out".
- o Daily Participation is worth 60% of a student's total grade in the course.
- o Every day of class, a student will be given a participation grade ranging from 0-10 points based on rubrics below:

- ❖ "A" 9-10 pts: This exceptional grade is reserved for outstanding work that surpasses typical standards. Awarded to those at the top of the class, it reflects a thorough mastery of the subject, strong initiative, and intellectual curiosity. The student demonstrates advanced cognitive and physical skills across knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
- ❖ "B" 8 pts : This above-average grade, slightly below an "A,". It is reserved for top-performing students in a certain class. It signifies excellence in attentiveness, knowledge accuracy, independence, creativity, and critical thinking. The student demonstrates proficiency across cognitive and physical skills, including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
- ❖ "C" 7pts: The student shows average performance, displaying knowledge and analytical skills at lower to middle levels in class-specific areas like application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. There's a lack of initiative and leadership despite an open and active mindset. This grade reflects an **average** performance.
- ❖ "D" 6pts: The student displays lower-level ability and retention of class-specific skills, including knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. There is a lack of initiative or leadership in learning, and the student is consistently unprepared or unaware of concepts. This performance falls below average in the skills specific to a certain class.
- ❖ "F" 5pts: The student has failed to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of any of the class subject matter or concepts. The student has failed to grasp or apply class concepts, lacking initiative, leadership, and a closed attitude towards the subject matter.

### **Assignments/ Assessments:**

o Packback discussions online will be another way that students are encouraged to engage with class content. The platform may be utilized during class to get feedback and there will also be regular discussions assigned outside of class (1-2x month). Packback can be accessed online via Canvas.



- o Periodically, feedback assignments that will require students to submit self OR peer reflective, constructive feedback will be assigned. This will require the student video record themselves/their performance and critically analyze progress.
- o Midterm Project: Halfway through the semester, students will be tested on their knowledge and ability to perform Hip Hop techniques covered in class. A practical assessment combined with an oral or written exam will be given. This is worth 10% of a student's grade.
- o Final Group Project: At the end of the semester, a group collaborative project will be assigned. This gives the students an opportunity to create original work/choreography based on what was covered in the term. It is expected that the original work remains in alignment with the dance form, its techniques, and cultural values. A student will be graded individually and as a group. The final project is worth 20% of a student's total grade.
- o Extra Credit: Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities to receive extra credit outside of the formal coursework. Opportunities will be posted in Canvas. On some occasion, the extra credit opportunities may be completed to excuse an absence that may be on record.

Grading Breakdown	Grade Weight (%)		Grading Scale	
<b>Daily Participation:</b> attendance,in-class participation	60%		100-90%	A
Peer/Self Feedback & Assessment (periodic)	10%		89-80%	B
Midterm Assessment	10%		79-70%	C
Final Group Project Assessment	20%		69-60%	D
TOTAL:	100%		Below 60%	F

#### **Cheating/Plagiarism:**

**NO cheating or plagiarism is allowed. If caught, you will receive a "FAIL" for the assignment and you may be removed from the class! The University upholds a strict policy on academic dishonesty. This can also include falsifying your attendance or misrepresenting work.**

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## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity (Policy 06.003)**

The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.

### **Face Coverings:**

Although it is currently not required, UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors. This is regardless of vaccination status and with the intention to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Masks are especially encouraged if you are experiencing any symptoms that could potentially put others at further risk. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

### **Accommodating Students with Disabilities (ODA Statement) (Policy 16.001)**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu)."

### **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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year.

Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

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>) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://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 email. (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

### **Student Course Evaluation (SPOT)**

Student feedback is important to help improve the quality of instruction and student experience in their courses. The SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey allows students to submit confidential feedback on their experiences. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Technical Requirements/Assistance:**

If you ever have any issues with the technical systems needed to access course resources, correspondences, or for assignment submissions. Please contact the instructor and also the UNT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm> or through email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu).

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

### **Code of Conduct (Policy 07.012):**

The University of North Texas is deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of a diverse, global community. The University has established the Code of Student Conduct to promote the wellbeing, honor and

dignity of all who live, learn and work in our educational community. The Code of Student Conduct is intended to foster a safe environment conducive to learning and development, as well as to hold students accountable through an educational process that balances the interests of individual students with the interests of the University. Students and student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and upholds the integrity and values of the University community.