

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Dance & Theatre
Fall 2025

Jazz Dance I

DANC 1500.001

Monday/Wednesday, 11:00am - 12:20 pm

DATH 131

Faculty Information

Instructor: Hadley Voss, MFA (she/her)
Contact: Hadley.Voss@unt.edu
Office: 103J
Office Hours: By Appointment
You may email me at any time. I typically respond within 24 hours except over the weekends.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a beginner course in the principals, practices and performances of classic, contemporary, and industrial/commercial jazz techniques. Students will cultivate deeper understanding within the scope of jazz dance through daily warmups, exercises and combinations, choreography, assigned readings and viewings, class discussions, and so on. This course prioritizes a continued commitment towards developing a professional and positive attitude, refining movement patterns and performance skills, navigating creative interpretation, and investigating artistic expression. There is an emphasis on alignment, safety and efficiency, and an understanding of the human body in the execution of jazz practices and techniques. Students will explore their connection to historical and varied jazz dance styles, trends, and performers/choreographers.

Prerequisites For Doing Well in this Class

- Students should arrive to class in dance clothing/footwear that allows freedom of movement while supporting adequate safety and feedback.
- Students should approach each class with openness, fresh ideas, creativity, and willingness to share with a community.
- Students are requested to keep a class journal, which should be accessible each class. Students may be asked to take note of significant moments, sequences, history, imagery, feedback, questions, etc.

- *A journal also helps students reference class experiences for other assignments.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Level II jazz practice represents a level of technical skill and creative process in which students will learn to recognize, understand, and apply technical knowledge while strengthening individual artistic integrity, agency, and personal responsibility.

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

- Develop a technical practice within various jazz dance techniques/forms.
 - This may involve classic jazz, Broadway jazz, industrial/commercial jazz, contemporary jazz, Afro-Caribbean fusion forms, etc.
- Demonstrate physical embodiment of concepts covered in class including dynamic alignment, flexibility, strength, rhythm, coordination, and performative qualities.
- Identify, analyze, and embody jazz dance historical culture through movement, readings, viewings, and discussions as a means of contextualizing self and practice.
- Generate movement phrases that exhibit comprehension of key jazz dance elements.
- Evaluate individual work as well as peers' work through oral, written, and physical communication skills.

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 MATERIALS

No required texts. Supplemental readings from other sources may be assigned during the course and provided by the instructor via Canvas.

Recommended Texts:

- Lindsay Guarino and Wendy Oliver, eds. *Jazz Dance: A History of the Roots and Branches*. Tallahassee, FL: University Press of Florida, 2014.
- Brenda Dixon Gottschild. *Digging the Africanist Presence in American Performance: Dance and Other Contexts*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1996.

Touch-Based Learning

In this class, touch-based partnering and touch-based feedback may be offered as strategies to support student learning and curriculum goals throughout the semester. Students always maintain the right to offer or withhold consent to be touched or to touch another, or to request

modifications, for any reason. Students are not expected to report rationales for withholding consent.

In this class, we follow these protocols regarding the use of touch:

- Consent to touch must be requested each time touch is to be offered by the teacher or between students and this consent must be sought from each student in the class.
 - Giving permission once is not consent to future touch.
- If consent is not given, the teacher should be prepared to communicate the information without touch through verbal language or other means.
- When touch is offered, one should identify the location to be touched and the purpose for the touch.

If a student has concerns about the use of touch, the student is encouraged to notify the instructor verbally, through email, or with assistance from another instructor in order to share their concern. Instructors are committed to working with students to develop appropriate, individualized learning plans and strategies to support students in meeting course expectations, requirements, and learning outcomes.

**Touch-Based Learning policy adapted from Texas Woman's University Dance Practices syllabi.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Etiquette

- Arrive on time and ready to engage in dance practices. 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.
- 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.

Attire

Please dress in comfortable, but not baggy clothing. This aids dancer safety as well as instructor feedback. **Some form of dance footwear that allows articulation of the foot and turning is required for this course.** Note that dancing in non-dance-specific socks is NOT permitted in the interest of maintaining safety and stability.

ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING POLICY

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

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| 1. Daily In-Class Participation/Attendance | 70% |
| 2. Periodic Assessments | 30% |
| • Readings, Class Discussions, Homework | 10% |
| • Midterm Assessment | 10% |
| • Final Assessment | 10% |

Assessment throughout the Course:

Devaluation is ongoing throughout the semester via verbal and written comments from the instructor, outside observers, and peers. Criteria is based on technical embodiment, the student's commitment to the activity as evidenced by energy investment, attention to performance quality, presence in practice, contributions to discussions, and application of feedback from the instructor, peers, and self.

Daily Grading & Evaluation

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

- **“A” 9-10 pts (Daily)**
 - The student demonstrates *exemplary* ability to integrate, analyze, initiate, consistently apply, and attend to technical abilities such as connectivity, movement pick-up, physical capacity, musicality, improvisation, artistry, and agency during the class time.
- **“B” 8-9 pts (Daily)**
 - The student demonstrates *proficient* ability to integrate, analyze, initiate, consistently apply, and attend to technical abilities such as connectivity, movement pick-up, physical capacity, musicality, improvisation, artistry, and agency during the class time.
- **“C” 6-7 pts (Daily)**
 - The student demonstrates *marginal* ability to integrate, analyze, initiate, consistently apply, and attend to technical abilities such as connectivity, movement pick-up, physical capacity, musicality, improvisation, artistry, and agency during the class time.
- **“D” 1-5 pts (Daily)**
 - The student demonstrates *insufficient* ability to integrate, analyze, initiate, consistently apply, and attend to technical abilities such as connectivity, movement pick-up, physical capacity, musicality, improvisation, artistry, and agency during the class time.
- **“F” 0 (Daily)** – Student is absent.

Attendance Grading Policy for Department of Dance studio classes:

This class is concerned with the intellectual and physical development of the body. Evaluations are based on development from class to class, week to week, and the course of the semester. There may be multiple formats for achieving the accountability standards for this course, including instructor-led practice, self-practice, articles read, viewings, video demonstrations of principles, with self, peer, and instructor feedback. Therefore, it is imperative to be present and working through class material during all class meetings.

There will be 2 free absences. **At the fourth absence, the student will fail the course. Beyond 5 absences, you will be asked to drop the course, in accordance with the UNT Attendance Policy.** There are no excused absences beyond UNT's [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy](#). Students are responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing, providing satisfactory evidence to substantiate the request (including COVID illness/quarantine). A reasonable deadline will be agreed upon between faculty of record and student. A student needing assistance verifying absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances for all courses should contact the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students office will verify the student's documentation and advocate on the student's behalf, as appropriate, to instructors.

In the event of an absence, students are responsible for notifying the instructor, prior to the absence if possible, as well as the material or content covered, in addition to completing the journal requirements including video and/or written responses.

It is expected that you should not arrive late to class or ask to leave early. Please plan to arrive 5-10 minutes early to prepare yourself for practice. Late arrivals will be reflected in daily professional engagement. Students arriving more than 5 minutes late may not be allowed to take the class.

Lateness & 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.

Observing/Sitting Out

Observations are considered exceptions and require instructor approval. If a student is unable to fully participate in class due to injury or illness, the instructor should be informed ASAP via email and when they arrive at class. The student must articulate how they will modify the content to protect from further injury and inform recovery. If the student elects to observe, they must take notes, describing and articulating what the student learned from observing the class and why (it's not enough to just describe what happened in class).

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.

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.

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.

LATE/MAKE-UP WORK may 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 or make-up work. Late work may receive diminishing percentage points each day. No late work will receive credit after 7 days past due date.

IMPORTANT DATES

***These dates are tentative and subject to change.

Senior Project (NCC) Auditions

- Audition sign up on the dance call board
- Date: Friday 8/22
- More details to come!

Spring Dance Concert Auditions

- Audition sign up on the dance call board
- Date: Friday 8/29
- More details to come!

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival

- Dates: Thursday 10/9 - Saturday 10/22
- Location: Sam Houston State University

Guest Artist Residency: Mike Esperanza

- Dates: Tuesday 10/14 - Sunday 10/19

kNOw BOX Film Festival

- Date: Wednesday 11/5
- Time: TBD
- More details to come!

Wellness Week – November 5-6

NCC Final Showing & ACDA Adjudication – Friday, November 7

New Choreographers Concert

- Dates: Thursday 11/20 - Saturday 11/22
- Times: TBD

Thanksgiving Break OFF – November 24-28

Finals Week – December 6-11

CLASSROOM POLICIES

No food or drinks in the classroom, besides water in a closed container. Please dress in comfortable, but not baggy or restricting clothing. Turn cell phone sound OFF when entering the classroom. Phones may be utilized for documenting personal and peer performance.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

In-class performances of movement material in this course may be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

UNT POLICY STATEMENTS

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Realiation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because 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 in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Academic Dishonesty

UNT's Policy of Academic Dishonesty found in the Student Handbook applies to this course. If caught plagiarizing (meaning copying) published sources or another student you will be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and you will also fail this course. This policy also applies if you are caught falsifying your attendance or misrepresenting your work in any way. For your own sake please be sure that you are familiar with the rules and regulations regarding Academic Dishonesty. "The term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to: 1. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement [or citation] and/or 2. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials."

[-http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/misconduct.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/misconduct.html)

AI, Plagiarism, & Academic Integrity

The "unauthorized" use of any person or technology that assists in a student's assignment, project, or paper is considered cheating under the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003). Unless a professor or instructor gives explicit "authorization," AI cannot be used to complete assignments, projects, or papers. Doing so will result in a "cheating" violation.

AI should not be used to assist in writing papers, searching for sources, or creating citations. Citations provided by AI are fabricated by mimicking existing bodies of work. In most cases, AI will pull direct quotes from existing sources to answer queries and make-up information about the source.

AI can be used ethically to help you develop an outline for a paper, generate ideas, and learn a citation style. Talk to your subject librarian or professor about how you can use AI ethically.

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.

Disabilities Statement-Movement

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 Accommodation (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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

If you need or think you might need academic accommodations please let me know today after class.

The content of this class requires each student to:

1. Participate physically and mentally in a safe manner
2. Exhibit mastery of specific steps and movement patterns through both visual and verbal cues
3. Process visual and verbal cues spontaneously
4. Exhibit ability to carry their own body weight as well as the weight of others

Student Obligations to Academic/Production Work

DT students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignments within the Department, as well as outside employment, athletics, and other obligations, sometimes impose conflicting pressures on DT students. One of the principal responsibilities of each student is to carefully identify and monitor the commitments that comprise his/her production work and outside obligations do not

constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

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:

- 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.

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & STUDENT SERVICES

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns. You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc. Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Multicultural Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Pride Alliance](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Lab](#)