**University of North Texas**

**Department of Theater and Dance**

**Spring 2024**

**DANC 4418.001 – Ballet**

Tuesday/ Thursday 9:00 – 10:20

am

Dance and Theater Arts Building (DATH) 111

Instructor: Reyna Mondragon MFA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Hours: **by appointment**

E-mail: Reyna.mondragon@unt.edu

You may email me at any time. I will respond within 48 hours (except over the weekends).

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is for the advanced dancer and involves the practice of complex elements of classical and contemporary ballet, with emphasis on pre-professional and pedagogical preparation. Class format will incorporate various elements of ballet including the application of terminology specific to ballet techniques and vocabulary. This class will also involve advanced concepts of somatic practice, contemporary approaches to movement, and scientific theories as they relate to personal practice. Components will also include learning and identifying advanced ballet vocabulary as well as the development of critical analysis skills. The intent of the course is successful upon a continued commitment towards and consistency in a professional and positive attitude, shaping and refining personal movement patterns, and discovering creative interpretation and artistic expression.

## COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required textbooks. Selected 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):

* *(Re:) Claiming Ballet* by Dr. Adesola Akinleye
* *Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet* 3rd Ed. by Gail Grant
* *Inside Ballet Technique* by Valerie Grieg
* American Ballet Theatre Online Ballet Dictionary: https://www.abt.org/explore/learn/ballet-dictionary/

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As an advancing dancer proficient in developing technique, artistry, and professionalism, upon completion of this course the student will be able to achieve the below mentioned elements within ballet practice and performance:

* Demonstration of Line and Form
* Dynamic Alignment
* Safe and Effective Body Patterning
* Spatial Awareness
* Rhythmic Accuracy
* Initiation and Follow-Through
* Strength, Flexibility and Endurance
* Professionalism, Etiquette, and Performance Ability

*This will be structured around three goals…*

Goal I: Engaging the Body Through Vocabulary and Dynamic Alignment…

* Barre
* Adagio
* Petit and Grand Allegro
* Instructor-Lead, Self-Created, and Collaborative Choreography

Goal II: Engaging the Environment in Performance, Musicality, Movement Dynamics…

* Shift responsively between movement qualities and use internal and external visual focus to communicate a range of performance intentions.
* Perform clear relationships to musical down beats and syncopations when performing advanced ballet sequences, with rhythmic clarity and buoyancy.
* Maintain spatial relationships and responsiveness to others in all group combinations.
* Make inferences regarding counts and meters in order to experiment outside of musical structures.

Goal III: Exercising Community Respect…

* Demonstrate commitment to individual growth as a dancer/artist by preparing self-directed class goals by developing reflective physical and writing practices (including taking notes and completing reflective journal entries/other assignments).
* Demonstrate commitment to personal growth with consistent attendance to classes with no tardies or early exits and an ability to monitor energy as needed while dancing fully.
* Gauge the dynamics of the learning environment in a way that responsibly promotes empowered learning by asking appropriate questions and taking the space needed to deepen skills and expand knowledge.
* Work with others in a mature manner regardless of interpersonal dynamics.
* Process and apply instructor and peer provided technical and performance feedback.
* Actively develop routes to accessing a personal sense of joy within one's movement practice when in the ballet environment.
* Articulate possible causes for injuries and choose appropriate actions for recovery.

### 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 & GRADING**

## 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 tolerated 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

## COURSE ATTIRE

**Ballet shoes are encouraged, but not required. If socks are worn, they must be thin and of minimal slickness.**

Appropriate attire for freedom of movement is required. The instructor will set the standard for appropriate dress in each class in accordance with the standards and norms of the movement form. For our course, this means clothing that supports safety and adequate feedback – please do not wear excessively baggy clothing, aside from extra layers that may be worn during warm up to later be removed. Be considerate of the ways your clothing, jewelry, adornments may affect others in class**.**

## ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING POLICY

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

1. Daily In-Class Participation 70%
2. Periodic Assessments 30%
   * Journals, Community Conversations, Homework 10%
   * Midterm Assessment 10%
   * Final Assessment 10%

*Assessment throughout the Course:*

Evaluation is ongoing throughout the semester via verbal and written comments from the instructor, outside observers, and peers. Criteria for success in the performance of technique is based on technical expertise, 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 suggestions from the instructor, peers and self.

**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 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 be lowered by 5%; for example, a 90% becomes an 85%. 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 who do not attend the first day of class may be dropped to accommodate those who are on the wait list.
* If you are sick 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.
  + A student is responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing, providing   
    satisfactory evidence to the faculty member to substantiate excused absence and   
    delivering the request personally to the faculty member assigned to the course for   
    which the student will be absent.
  + 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.

**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.** In order to ensure all students are properly warmed up and prevent injuries, students arriving more than 5 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.

Typically, *observations are considered one-half absences*, as the student is not fully engaged in the activity or the class.

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. 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. **Typically, ‘sitting out’ two times equals one absence.**

**MAKEUP WORK:**

Only in specific circumstances may the student be allowed to make up an absence. For this consideration communicate with the faculty member at an appropriate time. Do not wait till the last minute.

**University Policies:**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

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. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

### **ADA Policy**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (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](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (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.

### **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) (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](https://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 [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

### **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 [insert administration dates] 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](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\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](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\spot@unt.edu).

### **Survivor Advocacy**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

### Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

**Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

**University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

* 1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
  2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

* The work is used only once.
* The work is not used in its entirety.
* Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
* The student is not identified.
* The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form.

**Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

## **Academic Support & Student Services**

### Student Support 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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
* [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

#### **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](https://registrar.unt.edu/transcripts-and-records/update-your-personal-information)
* [UNT ID Card](https://sfs.unt.edu/idcards)
* [UNT Email Address](https://sso.unt.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO;jsessionid=E4DCA43DF85E3B74B3E496CAB99D8FC6?execution=e1s1)
* [Legal Name](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)

*\*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

#### **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](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808) 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?](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)
* [How do I use pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/how)
* [How do I share my pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/sharing)
* [How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/asking)
* [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](https://www.mypronouns.org/mistakes)

#### **Additional Student Support Services**

* [Registrar](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\Registrar) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
* [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
* [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
* [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
* [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
* [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

### **Academic Support Services**

* [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
* [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
* [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
* [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

**Academic Dishonesty:** (http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.html): The University takes plagiarism and cheating very seriously. Plagiarized work will earn a zero for the assignment. Students will face action according to University guidelines for academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to submit any paper I suspect of plagiarism to Turnitit.com.

**Academic Ethics:** (http: www.unt.edu/csrr0: Acts of academic dishonesty are subject to discipline at UNT. Cheating plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading information are acts of academic dishonesty. The definitions of these terms are clearly described in the Undergraduate Catalog ([www.unt.edu/catalog](http://www.unt.edu/catalog)) and by the Center for Students Rights and Responsibilities.

**Authorized Class Absence:** (<http://www.unt.eduvpaa_fy0708_fhb/lll-a.html>): All travel by students off campus for the purpose of participation in UNT sponsored activities must be authorized by the dean of the school or college of the sponsoring department. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the dean of students for instructors.

**Absence for Religious Holidays:** (<http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/lll-a.html>): A student absent due to the observance of a religious holiday may take examinations/ complete assignments scheduled for the day(s) missed within a reasonable time after the absence. Class participants should notify the instructor via email of planned absences for religious holidays.

**Disability Support Services:** (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>) ): ODA Office in Sage Hall, Suite 167.

**Office of Disability Accommodation Statement:** (ODA)- 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 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.

To graduate, students majoring in dance are required to have a minimum grade of “B” in dance technique courses that comprise their major.