

Course Syllabus

University of North Texas

Department of Dance and Theatre

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Spring 2020

Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday 2:00-3:50pm

Choreography II

DANC 2250 Section 001/Section 301 (LAB)

Faculty Contact Information:

Reyna Mondragon: Reyna.Mondragon@unt.edu

Office: 103G

Class Location: DATH 110

Office Hours T/Th 1pm-4pm or by appointment.

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 Modern Dance Technique Levels III, IV, V, VI, VII, or VIII.

During this course, we will explore techniques in creating movement compositions. Throughout the semester we will focus on the body and how it relates to space, time, energy, rhythm and our peers. The students will create meaningful movement ideas found through exploring and engaging their choreographic voices by doing solo and collaborative compositions. This course is designed to guide the student's creativity and expand her or his point of view. During the course, we will also direct and develop our constructive feedback and critical thinking skills by talking about our choreographic works and processes as a group. Students are encouraged to challenge their artistic vision as well as craft in creating.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:

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

- Develop improvisational movement scores to generate and explore movement vocabulary as demonstrated through compositional studies.
- Demonstrate a variety of methods for assembling movement into phrases and phrases into sections, as demonstrated through compositional studies.
- Demonstrate appropriate strategies for editing, refining, embellishing, and amplifying movement content, as demonstrated through compositional studies and written assignments.
- 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.

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.

Major Course Assignments and Examinations

1. Attendance and active daily engagement with course content is of utmost importance in any studio dance class.
2. Weekly composition studies and in-class showings.
3. Weekly journal and blog entries based on your work in class and as directed through assignments.
4. Final composition study.

Evaluation:

Class Participation / Department Support

40%

- Come to class with an open approach to movement creation
- Full participation of class assignments; daily improvisations and rehearsal time
- Maintain a supportive environment
- Ability to use constructive feedback with peers
- Take risks as a creator
- Ask questions not only to me but yourself.
- Attend two dance performances.

Composition Studies (5 Studies at 6% each)

30%

- Showing composition studies when they are due.
- Unless specified, the composition studies must be set material and able to be repeated.
- Clarity within the performance. Use rehearsal time in class. Some outside rehearsal time will be necessary.
- Movement invention and development.
- Support of exploration in movement invention.

Journal 11%

- Daily log of creative process as well as assignments.
- Will be graded on creative input and detail of your process.

You will need to bring a journal to each class. In your journal, you will write your process in creating as well as assignments. We will discuss your journals periodically throughout class.

Blog (5 Blog posts) 10%

- Will be graded on creative input and detail of your process.

Final Composition Study 9%

Policy on showing work:

You must show work on scheduled days that assignments are due. During each showing, students are required to practice their skills in constructive criticism to their peers.

Required Textbook

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

Burrows, Jonathan. *A Choreographer's Handbook*. New York: Routledge, 2010. Print.

Recommended Readings

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. 1991, Print

Lavender, Larry. *Dancers Talking Dance*. Albuquerque: Human Kinetics, 1996. Print.

Tharp, Twyla. *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster,

2003. Print.

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" 8pts (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" 7pts (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" 6pts (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" 5pts (Daily) The student has failed to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of any of the class subject matter or concepts. This student has failed to acquire or retain skills specific to class material, takes no initiative or leadership in learning and is closed to the subject matter.

Tentative Calendar of Classes & Assignments:

See Canvas for a detailed course calendar and list of due dates.

For a complete UNT academic calendar please go to:

<https://danceandtheatre.unt.edu/dance/2019-2020-production-calendar>

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

By signing bellow, you agree that you have read and understood your responsibilities as a student when it comes to attendance policy and class etiquette (pg 5-6)

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 in order to accommodate those who are on the wait list.

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. If the student comes in 5 minutes late to class, they are choosing to get 5 points taken off from their daily grade.** In order to ensure all students are properly warmed up and prevent injuries, students arriving more than 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.

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, 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. **Typically, 'sitting out' two times equals one absence.**

Class Etiquette/Dressing Out:

- There are certain rules of classroom etiquette: no leaving class during an exercise unless there is an emergency, no chewing gum, and no food/beverages other than water in the studio during class. Students should dress out for each class in order to comfortably and properly execute exercises.
- 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 on progress in the movement analysis 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.

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 that either served as inspiration or was interesting. Teacher will give further information on the requirements for the paper.

Some Resources

- TITUS presents
- UNT Faculty dance concert
- TWU
- TCU AIDS benefit concert

Student Signature: _____

Semester: _____

Date: _____

University Policies:

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 ([Links to an external site.](#))) and by the Center for Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Authorized Class Absence: (http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/III-a.html ([Links to an external site.](#))): 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/III-a.html ([Links to an external site.](#))): 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> ([Links to an external site.](#)))): 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> ([Links to an external site.](#)). 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.