

Whitney Geldon, MFA

Office: 103C

Office Hours: TR 9:00am-10:30pm or by appointment

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The subject of this course shall include rehearsing and conducting scholarly research for and performing in DAT's Fall Dance Concert (FDC) or Spring Dance Concert (SDC). Focuses on the process of preparation for performance in a produced concert. Includes attention to the audition process, choreographic process, rehearsals, technical preparations including technical and dress rehearsals for public performances.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- **Demonstrate professional and collaborative practices** by arriving prepared and on time, participating actively in rehearsals and production activities, responding to direction and feedback, and contributing constructively to the artistic process.
- **Apply creative problem-solving strategies** to address challenges encountered during rehearsals, choreography, production, technical preparation, and performance.
- **Conduct and document scholarly and artistic research** using appropriate sources to inform performance, choreography, production work, and/or the student's assigned role within the concert.
- **Demonstrate effective time-management and organizational skills** by meeting rehearsal, production, performance, research, and assignment deadlines.
- **Reflect critically on artistic practice and personal development** through journal responses and the Final Analysis Project, identifying challenges, successes, strategies, and areas for continued growth.
- **Produce and/or contribute to a portfolio-worthy artistic project** that demonstrates the student's application of creative, collaborative, research, and performance/production skills developed throughout the course.

Course Materials

No required course text. Materials will be provided by the instructor.

COURSE GRADING:

Participation/Engagement (Meetings, Auditions, Rehearsals)	70%
Journal	10%
Final Analysis Project Paper	20%

Your creative growth and thoughtful responses constitute the major focus of this class. Therefore, open discussion and deep involvement are essential. 70% of your grade will be based on attendance and promptness that includes active participation and being prepared.

ATTENDANCE:

This class is concerned with the intellectual, physical, and artistic development of the body. Because learning in a studio course builds from class to class, week to week, and throughout the semester, regular attendance and active participation are essential.

Course learning may take multiple forms, including instructor-led practice, self-practice, readings, viewings, video demonstrations, improvisation, and self, peer, and instructor feedback. Students are therefore expected to attend and actively engage in all scheduled class meetings.

Students may have up to three (3) absences without an immediate impact on their course grade. Because Engagement is assessed through a student's participation and engagement in class, attendance is necessary for the instructor to assess Engagement. Attendance alone does not constitute engagement; rather, students must be present and actively participating in order for their engagement, preparation, application of feedback, collaboration, and demonstrated growth to be assessed.

Students are expected to communicate with the instructor and choreographer regarding absences as soon as possible. Absences will be handled in accordance with the UNT [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy](#). Students seeking consideration for an authorized absence are responsible for following the procedures outlined by UNT and providing appropriate documentation when required. Students who need assistance with absences related to illness or extenuating circumstances may 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.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

This is a physical practice, students should arrive 5-10 minutes early to prepare for movement. Students are expected to remain for the full class period unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Late arrival or early departure may affect a student's Engagement assessment. For safety, students arriving more than 5 minutes late may be asked to observe rather than participate in the rehearsal.

Opportunities for Make-up or Adapted Work

If illness, injury, or another circumstance prevents a student from fully participating in class, the student should inform the instructor as soon as possible and discuss appropriate ways to remain engaged with course material.

When appropriate, students may participate in an adapted form of the day's activities. Adaptations will depend on the activity, the student's circumstances, and the course learning objectives. Examples may include:

- Substituting floor work for standing work
- Working from a seated position
- Reducing range of motion or impact
- Refraining from jumping
- Modifying choreography or movement assignments
- Observing class and completing an observation activity

Students are expected to communicate with the instructor about appropriate adaptations. The goal of adapted participation is to support continued engagement with course material while respecting the student's physical limitations.

Because this is a physically based technique course, minimal or adapted participation is intended as a temporary modification and should not exceed two (2) weeks during the semester. If an injury or serious illness prevents a student from returning to full participation after this period, the student should meet with the instructor to discuss their ability to continue meeting the course learning outcomes and requirements.

Students should not push through pain or injury in an effort to meet course expectations. At the same time, students should understand that prolonged inability to participate physically may prevent them from demonstrating the learning outcomes required for successful completion of a technique course.

LATE WORK:

Assignments are expected to be submitted by the stated deadlines. Students who anticipate difficulty completing an assignment on time should communicate with the instructor prior to the deadline.

Requests for extensions or alternative arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis, including circumstances covered by university policy, approved accommodations, or documented extenuating circumstances.

Participation/Preparedness

It is expected to contribute consistently and professionally to the rehearsal and production process. Active participation includes being attentive and supportive of fellow company members, engaging constructively in rehearsal and production activities, and demonstrating a commitment to the collaborative nature of performance work. Students are also encouraged to observe and learn from the creative process of their peers.

Participation and preparedness will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Punctuality:** Arrive at all rehearsals, meetings, production calls, and performances on time and prepared to begin work at the scheduled start time.
- **Preparation:** fully prepared for each rehearsal or call, including wearing the appropriate rehearsal attire.
- **Engagement:** Remain attentive and actively engaged throughout rehearsals, meetings, and performances. Demonstrate a willingness to receive and apply direction and feedback.
- **Collaboration:** Contribute respectfully and constructively to the ensemble. Support the work of fellow company members and contribute to a positive, focused, and inclusive working environment.
- **Equipment and Facilities:** Use rehearsal, production, and performance equipment responsibly and safely. Follow all policies, procedures, and safety protocols governing the use of equipment and facilities.
- **Professional Conduct:** Maintain professional standard of conduct throughout all course-related activities. Students may not use or be under the influence of intoxicants immediately before or during rehearsals, production calls, meetings, performances, or recordings.

Final Analysis Project and Journal

Thirty percent (30%) of the course grade will be based on journal responses and the Final Analysis Project essay. The essay will serve as a reflective self-assessment of the student's participation and learning from the artistic process.

The Final Analysis Project essay should be 500-700 words, double spaced, and should thoughtfully address the approaches, strategies, or methods explored throughout the course. The essay should include:

- A concise discussion of the performance techniques, approaches, or strategies that were effective, as well as those that were less effective, and an explanation of why.
- A clear reflection on the challenges and successes experienced as a company member.
- An assessment of the student's growth and development throughout the rehearsal and performance process.
- A concluding reflection on what the student learned through participation in the artistic and collaborative process.

The Final Analysis Project essay is due Wednesday, December 9, 2026, by 5:00 pm. Please submit the completed essay through the THEA 4600 Canvas Assignment.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- No food or drinks in the classroom, besides water in a closed container.
- Wear comfortable clothing that allows for freedom of movement. Avoid excessively loose or baggy clothing.
- Socks are permitted on the marley at the discretion of student and instructor, however socks may affect stability and traction.
- Phones should be silenced when entering the classroom. Phones may be used to document personal or peer performance when authorized by the instructor and/or the students being recorded.
- Students are expected to contribute to a respectful, collaborative, and supportive learning environment.

CALENDAR

WEEK 1

Auditions *Aug 21*

WEEK 2

Journal DUE *Aug 30*

WEEK 3

All Cast Meeting *Sept 4*

WEEK 4

Rehearsal
Journal DUE *Sept 13*

WEEK 5

Rehearsal

WEEK 6

Rehearsal
SHOWING *Sept 25*

WEEK 7

SHOWING *Oct 9*

WEEK 8

Rehearsal

WEEK 9

Rehearsal

WEEK 10

Rehearsal
Theatre Walk Through *Oct 23*
Journal DUE *Oct 25*

WEEK 11-14

Adjudicated SHOWING *Oct 30*
Spacing Rehearsal *Nov 3-5*
Technical Rehearsal *Nov 9-11*
Perform and Present *Nov 12-15*

WEEK 15-16

Analysis Due *Dec 9*

Class Recordings

In-class movement material may be recorded for students enrolled in this course to review throughout the semester 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.

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.

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

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](#) to learn more.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT - MOVEMENT:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student's specific needs in a course. Students 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 meet with faculty regarding their accommodations during office hours or by

appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

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. Demonstrating the ability to manage and support one's own body weight and, when required by course activities, safely negotiate or support the weight of a partner.

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS TO ACADEMIC/PRODUCTION WORK:

DAT students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments. 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 DAT students. One of the principal responsibilities of each student is to carefully identify and monitor the commitments that comprise their production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DAT 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: [UIT Student Help Desk](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu **Phone:** 940-565-2324

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](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling](#)

Additional Student Support Services

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

Academic Support Services

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

***The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.