

THEA 4920.001: Dance Practicum

University of North Texas
Department of Dance and Theatre
Fall 2026

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Pronouns: she/her

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Office Hours: TR 9:00-10:30AM 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

4920. Dance Practicum. 3 hours. Supervised work in a position related to student's major, professional field of study or career objective. May be repeated for credit.

Intensive study of dance principles, values, philosophy, creative process, criticism, activism, and advocacy. Through self-discovery and professional development, this course focuses on the parameters of preparation and responsibility as the student investigates life choices within the dance field. Essential to this process is that each student analyze and synthesize knowledge and skills in preparation for a future career in dance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Examine principles and practices of inclusive, all-abilities dance education through direct observation and participation.
- Identify the diverse needs, strengths, interests, and modes of participation within an all-abilities dance setting.
- Design and develop a teaching, curriculum, or resource-based project informed by practical experience and inclusive pedagogical approaches.
- Apply and adapt movement-based teaching strategies to create accessible, engaging, and student-centered dance experiences.
- Reflect on and evaluate the relationship between theory, teaching practice, and the student's developing professional identity as a dance educator.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

No required text.

COURSE GRADING:

Participation/Engagement (Meetings and Classes)	70%
Final Analysis Paper	30%

ATTENDANCE:

More than 2 absences from project requirements will result in a dropping letter grade. 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. 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 any requirements noted by instructor.

It is expected that you should not arrive late to project commitments or ask to leave early. Please plan to arrive 5-10 minutes early to prepare yourself. Late arrivals will be reflected in professional engagement.

LATE WORK:

Late work is not permitted in this class. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered for extremely extenuating circumstances. Students must speak with the instructor immediately if they foresee a problem in submitting their work on time.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

No food or drinks in the classroom, besides water in a closed container. Please dress in comfortable, but not baggy clothing. Socks are permitted on the marley at the discretion of dancer and instructor; however, socks could deter stability. Turn cell phone sound OFF when entering the classroom. Phones may be utilized for documenting personal and peer performance.

CALENDAR

WEEK 1

Observation
Begin Project Proposal

WEEK 2

Observation

WEEK 5

WEEK 3

Introduction

WEEK 6

Observation

WEEK 4

WEEK 7

Check-in

WEEK 8

Lead

WEEK 9

Check-in

WEEK 10

Lead

WEEK 11-14

Present

WEEK 15-16

Analysis Due

Academic Accommodation:

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 Access (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, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Disabilities Statement – Movement:

In accordance with university policies, state and federal regulations, and specifically, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodation policy for this class is:

The content of this class requires each student to:

- a. Participate physically and mentally in a safe manner.
- b. Exhibit mastery of specific steps and movement patterns through both visual and verbal cues.
- c. Process visual and verbal cues spontaneously.
- d. Exhibit ability to carry own body weight as well as the weight of others.

If you have a disability, and feel you are able to meet the essential requirements of this class with or without reasonable accommodations, please contact the instructor during office hours to discuss your particular disability.

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 the production assignments within the Department, as well as outside employment 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 departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind that production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

Code of Student Conduct:

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 well-being, 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.

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.

Student Academic Integrity:

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.

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. All assignments will be submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

AI Policy:

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it

prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).

Academic Success/ Succeed at UNT:

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to succeed.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 or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

SPOT Evaluations:

This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester and provides you an opportunity to provide feedback on your experience in the course and how it is taught. I value student feedback and use it to continually reflect on and improve my teaching. Please complete the online SPOT evaluations thoughtfully and respectfully. The evaluation is available through your myUNT account and is an important part of contributing feedback to the course.

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.

Technical Requirements/Assistance:

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

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940.565-2324 Sage Hall, Room 130

Canvas technical requirements: <https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

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](#)
- [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](#)

	Departmental Important Dates
8/21	Fall Dance Concert Auditions
10/11 - 16	Guest Artist Residency: Elijah Gibson
10/21 - 23	Wellness WEEK
10/29 – 11/1	<i>Dracula</i>
11/12 - 15	Fall Dance Concert
11/23 - 27	FALL BREAK
12/5 - 12/10	Finals Week

***Course Syllabus and Schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**