

## **Modern Dance Level VIII**

DANC 4408.001

Hybrid: F2F DATH 110 / Remote

M/W/F 10:00 am - 11:20 am

Spring 2021

University of North Texas

Department of Dance and Theatre

Instructor: Whitney Geldon, MFA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office: 103G

Office Hours: 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:**

This contemporary modern dance technique class acknowledges a dance field of many different training methodologies. Emphasis will be placed on experiencing and questioning the roles of performer, choreographer, and improviser within a professional contemporary dance context. Students will deepen their study of contemporary dance technique through conceptual frameworks of somatic awareness principles as expressive tools, movement sequences choreographed by the instructor, and participate in challenging improvisation and partnering experiences. At the same time they will be asked to challenge their physical boundaries and their ideas about what dance technique can be.

We will explore contemporary modern technique as...

- The 6 basic principles of Movement Fundamentals: Alignment, Function, Range, Efficiency, Vocabulary, and Intention
- The awareness of Modern Dance Principles as a soloist, partner, and ensemble
  - weight
  - momentum
  - space
  - time
  - energy
  - focus
- The development of a community in which ideas, desires, difficulties, and class experiences are shared openly
- The engagement of real time decision-making and movement creation

One of the most exciting things I find about dance is utilizing our technique to move beyond what we think is possible. ***I challenge us to blur the line between clarity and abandonment.***

**Prerequisites For Doing Well In This Class:**

- Students will need knee pads and long sleeves/pants for floor work. Students should arrive to class in dance clothing that allows freedom of movement.
- 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. There will be times you will be asked to take note of significant moments, sequences, imagery, feedback, questions, etc. ***\*\*A Journal will also help you to reference class experiences for other assignments.***

**Course Structure:**

- This course is hybrid, functioning in both Face to Face (F2F) and remote platforms, but also defined by synchronous engagement according to the course schedule and professor organization. Our class will be divided into groups and alternate days of f2f and remote engagement. For this Hybrid course, a fully Remote option is extended with expected synchronous engagement of course requirements.
- Each class will be a continuation of the content, not repeated exact from the previous day. There may be occasions where faculty design a personal practice day or small group meetings, scheduled in place of or during part of a synchronous class meeting (outside of regularly scheduled class will be reserved if needed).

**Required Texts:**

There is no required textbook, although articles to read and writing responses will be assigned.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Level VIII modern technique represents a high level of technical skill and creative process expertise in which students should be able to recognize, understand, and apply physical and technical-somatic knowledge while strengthening individual artistic integrity and personal responsibility.

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

1. Identify and perform dance movement concepts, fundamental movement patterns, proper mechanics, stylistic components and contemporary dance movement vocabulary in the context of one's own individual body on a pre-professional level, both in improvisation and in learned movement patterns.
2. Demonstrate partnering and improvisational skills by effectively negotiating, communicating and cueing spatial intentions through clarity of weight and dynamic body positioning.

3. Develop an individual sense of movement potential through an exploration of Movement Fundamentals such as Alignment and Function; Range and Efficiency; and Vocabulary and Intention.
4. Contribute to a collegial classroom environment conducive to inner exploration and self-learning through the performance of active listening during class as well as supportively observing peers in performance and providing constructive feedback when possible.
5. Identify somatic fitness principles, apply them to dance technique and design a personal practice by reflecting on personal growth, achievements, desires, questions, and difficulties orally with the class and one-on-one with the instructor.

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 REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:**

Participation is an assessment of student engagement in class, in movement, discussion, group and partner work as well as your achievement and growth.

The following is a percentage breakdown of final grades.

Daily Engagement (10pts)	65%
Journals (weekly entry required)	10%
Video Assessments (3)	25%

### **Accountability and Engagement:**

Daily engagement grades (10 pts) will reflect student demonstration of the following within a F2F or Zoom class:

1. Clarity: Student demonstrates a clear ability to understand and articulate the concepts presented in class, both cognitively and physically.
2. Presence: Student arrives ready, not only by being on time, but by preparing their body to move, by asking questions, and by dancing fully.
3. Community: Student contributes to creating a better environment for the class through observation of their peers, constructive criticism when asked, and bringing a supportive attitude to class.
4. Safety and Risk: Student pushes self to explore the edges of their own physicality, while listening to the needs of their body as to not cause health problems or injury.

5. Creativity: Student takes the concepts, phrases, and intentions explored in class and expresses ownership. Intent is not to perfect or imitate movement, but rather, embody it uniquely.

These categories are designed to help you understand how I define engagement throughout the semester. However, in a given class, I may access you through the lens of one or two of these criteria. After the first week of class, we will also determine which specific movement/artistry concepts we will hone in on throughout the semester. It will be through these specific concepts that you will be evaluated.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

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 whether in the F2F or virtual classroom.

More than 2 absences from Synchronous class will result in dropping a 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 except for personal or family emergencies or a UNT official activity, which the professor needs to approve.

In the event of an absence in synchronous practice or a remote student's camera is off on zoom, students are responsible for notifying the instructor, prior to the absence if possible, as well as the material or content covered by accessing the course recording on canvas, in addition to completing the journal requirements including video and/or written responses. Asynchronous is only to be utilized for extenuating circumstances and after two absences of synchronous engagement, daily engagement will be impacted.

It is expected that you should not arrive late to class or ask to leave early for F2F and Zoom classes. 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.

ODA COVID-19 Student Requests Related to Remote Participation

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/covid-19-requests>

### COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

### **Opportunities for Make-up Work:**

If a student is unable to fully participate in class due to injury or illness, the instructor should be informed ASAP via email. 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 *remotely* (when possible), describing and articulating what the student learned from observing the class and why. (It's not enough to just describe what happened in class.) The student will add the notes to their weekly blog.

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 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.

If the student has not amassed at least 30% of their 100% grade by midterm, the student will receive an unsatisfactory progress notice. If the student continues making unsatisfactory progress they will be asked to drop the course.

### **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)

## **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](tel: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.

### **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. Personal belongings will be placed on your square's designated X. Students and instructor will devise a protocol for rotating placement in the room for equity and inclusion.

**VISIBILITY on ZOOM** – Where any remote aspect exists, our biggest concern is visual connection to your physical person. Students must commit to being seen for equitable exchange, assessment, and feedback. This requires full body visibility within the camera frame with top or front light support (not in silhouette). Please review Materials for Remote Learning Instruction below for further requirements. Being off camera is considered an Absence.

### ***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.

### ***Face Covering***

Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

### ***Materials for Remote Learning Instruction***

The UNT spring schedule requires this course to have a hybrid course format, which requires remote participation. Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam, microphone, or recording device such as phone, camera or computer, and reliable internet connection] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [7x7 ft. space to move free from objects and obstacles, where you feel comfortable to move. Please contact instructor within Week 1 for help with troubleshooting]. [Learn more about how to be successful in a remote learning environment](#)

### ***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 site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm



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

### ***Class Recordings & Student Likenesses***

Synchronous (live) sessions 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.

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

*\*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](#) 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](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (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/)

### **TENTATIVE CALENDAR:**

TBA after the first week.

\*To graduate, students majoring in dance and theatre are required to have a minimum grade of B in dance/theatre courses that comprise his/her major.

\*Students who miss the first day of class without consent of the instructor are subject to be administratively dropped from the course so that other students may be added. Students who must miss the first day of class because of illness or some other acceptable excuse must notify the instructor on record the day of the absence.

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