The University of Texas at El Paso  
**Fall 2022**

DANC 2342  
CRN 23068  
**BALLET FOUNDATIONS II**

**Class meets:**  In person  
Mon., Tues., Wed., & Thurs. from 12-1:20 pm  
@ Fox Fine Arts M201

**Instructor:**  Ashley Kroft  
aekroft@utep.edu  
Please, communicate with the instructor via email (not with Blackboard messaging)

**Office hours:**

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<td>@ Fox Fine Arts M211</td>
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<td>Mondays, 1:30-2:30 pm</td>
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**Public health:**  
Considering Covid-19, it is optional to bring to class your own mask and hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently. Stay at home if you experience Covid-19 symptoms and check the Attendance Policy and Campus Sources for Covid indicated here.

**Course Description:**  
This continued introductory course approaches the fundamentals of ballet technique as a structure, body alignment, performance of technique (barre and center work) and terminology with a body-positive approach, to serve the evolving needs of the 21st century performance artist and educator. This course offers the tools to strengthen the dancer’s knowledge of body-mind connection, technique execution, and performative quality. The keyword for this semester is execution.
Students are expected to demonstrate technical and artistic performance in ballet technique and aesthetics at a beginner/intermediate level (specificity in terminology, musicality, movement quality, effective use of energy, breath, phrasing etc.). This entails an ability to learn combinations, familiarity with ballet vocabulary, autonomy in responding to the instructors’ feedback, responsibility in taking care of the body (proper warm-up, conditioning, stretching, etc.), and maintaining a professional attitude in graciously collaborating with fellow students-colleagues in group work.

**Learning Goals:**

- Body alignment, core stability, development of the turn-out.
- The ability to execute basic/intermediate barre exercises learned and tempos of exercise.
- Ability to put ballet steps together in a danced phrase.
- Execution of musicality, breath work, and stamina.
- Awareness of softness and strength in ballet movement.
- Applying kinesthetic awareness (an awareness of how one’s own musculature and skeletal structure work in relation to one’s own body and other bodies in space).
- Demonstrated knowledge of ballet positions and terms verbally and physically.
- The capacity to synthesize information and apply it in discussions, written formats, assignments, and dance technique.
- Applying and executing your understanding of conveying the fundamentals of the ballet technique principles.

**Class materials (Dress Code):**

- **Textbook:** *Technical Manual And Dictionary of Classical Ballet* by Gail Grant Third revised edition
  (You can purchase this text for $7.95 on Amazon)
- Ballet slippers
- Longer & shorter hair secured away from face to avoid distractions.
- Tight fitted attire to assess proper alignment AND to avoid hindering your movement (you can choose any combination of the below options):
  - leotard (any color) and dance tights (any color)
  - dance tights/pants (any color) and a tight fitted shirt tucked in pants or a tank (any color)
  - tight fitted shorts or leggings over leotard and/or tights (any color)
  - tight fitted tops (any color): tank tops/shirts/etc.
  - support garments if necessary (dance belt/sports bra)
  - students may wear extra layers (sweaters, leg warmers, socks, sweatpants, etc.) in the beginning of class, as they warm up.
- Avoid baggy clothes after warm up.
- **One yoga block** (won’t need until week 3)
- One resistance band (won’t need until week 3)
- One Theraband (won’t need until week 3)
- two tennis balls and a tube sock (won’t need until week 9)

***UTEP students with valid ID have a discount in the following dance stores in El Paso: Dance Designs (central) and Distractions (inside Champion Dance Studios - far eastside).

Refer to the UTEP Library Dance Studies research guide for important dance sources: https://libguides.utep.edu/c.php?g=429599&p=2930447

Course Policies:
* Students are expected to show up to class on time and ready to start. If you are tardy, please send an email before class to the instructor explaining the reason for being late.
* Because of the nature of this course, attendance is mandatory to assess progress of the Ballet technique. If I cannot assess your progress, you cannot pass this course.
* Never sit in class unless told otherwise. This is about professionalism and your body language.

Technology Requirements:

Some class materials are uploaded/linked on Blackboard. Sometimes, if a video doesn’t work or a page doesn’t open, it’s because you need to download or update a software or update/change browser. Check that your device’s hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If you encounter technical difficulties of any kind, contact the Help Desk at https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/

If you cannot have access to technological means for whatever reasons, contact the instructor ASAP to negotiate an accommodation.

If you do not know how to use Blackboard – contact Tech Support immediately. Do not wait until the day of an assignment is due. The assignment will not be excused if you wait last minute. You can go in person to Room 300 at the UTEP Library or contact the Help Desk via email at helpdesk@utep.edu, or by phone 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4p.

Attendance Policy (Dept. of Theatre & Dance, Dance Program):

For courses that meet four times a week, the maximum number of absences allowed without failing the course is 8. Five absences result in no penalty and require no justification. Each of the 6th, 7th, and 8th absences result in the lowering of the overall course grade by ½ letter. At the 9th absence, the student fails the course regardless of course average. Five tardies (over 10 minutes late) count as one absence.

- In case of extended injury or illness, the student must contact the instructor to discuss possible accommodations, course continuation or to consider dropping the class.
- In the event of international bridge closures, the student needs to contact the instructor as exceptions may be made and make-up course work assigned.
• In the event of highly unusual or extenuating circumstances, a student may petition the course instructor and department chair for permission to continue in a course.
• In case of injury, a student who is able to be present in the studio may observe class and complete alternative and equivalent assignments to be negotiated with the instructor.
• In case of Covid related illness, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with (via zoom if necessary) to discuss possible solutions to make-up course work.

Grading:

• **Participation, Attire, and progress:** 40 possible points
  
  Active participation, attendance to class, commitment to the class, curiosity, peer-work, and work ethic. Refer to the **Attendance Policy** above for further details. Attire refers to your wardrobe and maintaining the tight-fitted clothing to assess alignment and clothing that doesn’t hinder your movement quality. Check above under Class Materials (Dress Code). Progress refers to technical progress as well as to the development of a professional attitude throughout the semester. I recommend periodical checks-in and don’t hesitate to ask for more feedback!

• **Group component** 10 possible points
  
  Students will be required to collaborate with their group 1 body position/direction floor exercise in the second half of the semester. Must be able to verbally walk instructor through the exercise you are demonstrating and be able to demonstrate Right and Left side. Days will be established after Week 8. Criteria will be discussed in class.

• **Departmental Performances** 10 possible points
  
  **Mandatory Performances (2 total):** For each event attended, you must write a 1- 1.5 page MAX, double spaced, size 12 font Times New Roman reflection of the performance in which you are offering an analysis of the movement and the body and how it is relevant to society today.

  **Must choose one from List A & one from List B**

  **List A**
  
  **HEROES AND SAINTS** - The Wise Family Theatre
  February 24, 25, March 3,4 @ 7:30pm
  February 26 & March 5 @ 2:30
  *Student Matinee: March 1 @ 10:00 A.M.

  **RAISING THE BARRE**, UTEP + Desert Dance fundraising concert.
  February 2, 3, 4 @ 7:30 PM; June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre.
  Tickets at UTEP Ticket Center (2 locations: next to Don Haskins or Union East, room 111) or online on Ticketmaster (fee applies). Ushering opportunity, email: mmelpignano@utep.edu
GATHERING FOR WATER: DANCE FESTIVAL 2023
- *WhenWaterFalls.*
April 28, 29 @ 7:30 pm – The Wise Family Theatre
April 30 @ 2:30pm -The Wise Family Theatre
Tickets at UTEP Ticket Center (2 locations: next to Don Haskins or Union East, room 111) or
online on Ticketmaster (fee applies)

THE FULL MONTY – Dinner Theatre Performance
April 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,

EXTRA CREDIT Non-mandatory Performances:
THE PROM – Dinner Theater Performance
February 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

If you cannot pay for a ticket, there are ushering opportunities for theatre performances. Students can sign up to usher all of our productions. They need to come to the audience development office (lobby of the Wise Theatre in Fox Fine Arts level 2) in person to sign up.

For events hosted by the Dinner Theater check: https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/udt/index.html.

Check out the Departmental Events for more information and tickets: https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/index.html

- **Terminology Assignments** 10 possible points
  Week 7 Thursday, March 2nd: Terminology Work Sheet (10 pts max)
  - *NO BALLET UNIFORM REQUIRED

- **Midterm class:** 15 possible points
  Thursday, March 9th (week 8): Demonstrating 1-2 body position/direction terms in front of class for classmates to guess.
  - *BALLET UNIFORM REQUIRED

- **Final class:** 15 possible points
Wednesday and/or Thursday, March, 3rd and/or 4th (week 15): Teaching one center combination to class. Must use excellent vocabulary language and attention to detail when teaching Right and Left side to class.

- *BALLET UNIFORM REQUIRED*

• Extra credit opportunities. There are numerous opportunities for extra credit. All events are indicated in the coursemap. For each event attended, it is necessary to submit a 1-page (double-spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12) reflection. Each satisfactory reflection grants 2 points.

Grading Scale
A = 90+
B = 80–89
C = 70–79
D = 65–69
F = < 65

Important dates:
- Town Hall Day: February 2nd, Wednesday @ 10:30am (no class, all dance & theatre majors/minors must attend)
- Spring Break: March 13th-17th
- Mid-term: Thursday, March 2nd
- Final: Wednesday and/or Thursday, May 3rd and/or 4th
- End of year Dance & Theatre Celebration: Friday, May 12th

Policy on Protection of Personal and Intellectual Content

All the materials—written, audio, and visual—shared within this course remain within this course. To store, post, or share by any means and/or for personal use or public consumption any course material (assigned or produced within and for the course) without explicit authorization by the subjects involved is illegal. Make sure to ask for permission in case. You can share on your social media your own materials if the only person that appears or the only author is you. If you want to share content that includes or is co-authored with other classmates, you need to contact them and the instructor via e-mail (utilizing the UTEP account) to discuss the authorization.

Policy on Sensitive Subject Matter

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects that may trigger specific emotions, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual’s rights to choose what performances and topics you can engage with, I expect all our discussions and reflections to be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Any form of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarizing, or taking a test for another student is considered a very serious matter at UTEP. Our library webpage provides good information on what UTEP considers
Academic Dishonesty and what steps the university takes in such cases. Please review this information at: [http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php). Refer also to the [Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs](#).

**Policy on Copyright and Fair Use**

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Copying of textbooks is not “fair use” under the Copyright Act. Your cooperation is expected. The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

**Students with Disabilities Policy**

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

**Campus Sources of Student Support**

- Center for Accommodations and Support Services [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/)
- Miner Learning Center [https://www.utep.edu/mlc/](https://www.utep.edu/mlc/)
- University Writing Center [https://www.utep.edu/uwc/](https://www.utep.edu/uwc/)
- Counseling and Psychological Services [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/)
- Students are encouraged to speak with professionals from UTEP’s Counseling and Psychological Services on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Union Building West, Room 202. In addition, the Miners Talk Crisis Line at 915-747-5302 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- UTEP Title IX (Anti-Sexual Harassment and Anti-Sexual Violence) Office: [https://www.utep.edu/titleix/sb-212.html](https://www.utep.edu/titleix/sb-212.html)
- Need more dance in your life? Join the UTEP student organization DESERT DANCE. E-mail desertdanceutep@gmail.com

**Campus Policy and Sources on COVID-19**

For policies, vaccination resources, testing, and updates, please visit: [https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/](https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/)

Mask-wearing and social distance are highly encouraged.

If you experience symptoms or have been exposed to Covid, please see the *Attendance Policy* above.