Class meets: In person  
M/W from 1:30-2:50 pm  
@ Fox Fine Arts A452

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

Office hours:  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>options</th>
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<tr>
<td>In person</td>
<td>@ Fox Fine Arts M211</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
<td>Mondays and Wednesdays, 12pm-1pm</td>
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| Virtual  | On Zoom  
Meeting ID: 840 8873 4433  
Passcode: ve3AtLQA  
Only for office hours! | By appointment | Send email with possible availability |

Course Description:  
This course approaches the fundamentals of jazz technique as a structure, body alignment, performance of technique (center and across the floor) 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. 

Students are expected to demonstrate technical and artistic performance in jazz 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 jazz 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:

* To give the student an experiential understanding of jazz dance skill.
* To introduce basic movement exercises for warm-ups and technique.
* To develop an appreciation of dance as an art form.
* To work on the elements of control, balance, direction and coordination.
* To learn disciplines necessary for rehearsal and performances.

Class materials (Dress Code):

* Jazz shoes (black or tan) in any brand you prefer.
* Longer & shorter hair secured away from face to avoid distractions.
* Dance clothes that do not hinder your movement. You can combine from the options below:
  * tops (any color): leotards, tank tops, shirts that are fitted or slighted fitted to assess alignment.
  * dance pants (any color)
  * tight fitted shorts or leggings (any color) *(if you choose to wear shorts, please wear tights underneath OR make sure they are long enough when you dance and move so that nothing inappropriate shows)*
  * support garments if necessary (sports bra)
  * students may wear extra layers (sweaters, socks, sweatpants, etc.) in the beginning of class, as they warm up but must come off once we begin technique.

***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](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 Jazz technique. If I cannot assess your progress, you cannot pass this course.

* **Never sit in class OR lean on the barres unless told otherwise. This is about professionalism and your body language.**
Technology Requirements:

Some class materials are uploaded/linked on Blackboard (BB). 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.

**Technology problems are NOT an excuse for work that is late or missing.** Students need to get into the habit of completing assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with technology problems. Expect that at some time, the network will be down, computers will go on the fritz, or some other small catastrophes will occur.

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

**ABSENCE/LATENESS/PARTICIPATION POLICY.** In a course that meets twice a week, a student is allowed a maximum of 4 absences in an entire semester, 2 of which require no justification and result in no penalty. A student may use these absences based on personal necessity. The 3rd and 4th absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the 5th absence, regardless of the student’s current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails the course. Three tardies (over 10 minutes late) count as one absence. If you acquired 3 or 4 absences by the end of the semester, I will pull from your participation points.

**Exceptions:**

- In the event of international bridge closures, exceptions may be made, and make-up course work assigned.
- In case of an injury or extended illness, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with his or her instructor to discuss possible solutions for course continuation or to consider dropping the class.
- 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.

**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 that doesn’t hinder your movement quality and your body can be seen. 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!

• **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.

If you cannot afford a ticket, there are ushering opportunities for departmental performances. Students can sign up to usher all departmental productions via the Theatre and Dance Audience Development office.

Ushering opportunities open one month before opening night. Ushers will see the production for free and must commit to the full time they are needed. If an usher doesn't show up or leaves early, they will not receive credit for seeing the show and will not be allowed to usher for future events.

- Usher sign-up link for Posdata: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/16eJ50efcSvtKPWQRCYJSirc8bhp0rlhHP6n85OT1RwQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16eJ50efcSvtKPWQRCYJSirc8bhp0rlhHP6n85OT1RwQ/edit?usp=sharing)

- Usher sign-up link for Metamorphoses: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HZ4l5HdTVbrMJ0y9ddG Dwwc4UdNGZC2SU XzXtKg7NWk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HZ4l5HdTVbrMJ0y9ddG Dwwc4UdNGZC2SU XzXtKg7NWk/edit?usp=sharing)

Also keep your emails/announcements checked for **Tickets in Kind** opportunities. Tickets in Kind are free tickets for students, donated by audience members and faculty.

• **Terminology Assignments** 10 possible points

**Week 7 Wednesday, October 11th:** Terminology Work Sheet (5 pts max)
- *NO JAZZ UNIFORM REQUIRED*

**Week 14 Wednesday, November 29th:** Terminology Work Sheet (5 pts max)
- *NO JAZZ UNIFORM REQUIRED*

• **Midterm class:** 15 possible points

**Monday, October 16th (week 8):** Jazz Dance Presentation.
**Final class:** 25 possible points

Wednesday, December 6th (week 15): Group presentations.

- *JAZZ UNIFORM REQUIRED

**EXTRA CREDIT Non-mandatory Performances:**

Will be posted on BB when they arise.

**GRADING SCALE**

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

**Late Work and Make-ups:**

- If you missed the deadline to submit an assignment, you will not receive credit.
- Extra Credit will be given out sporadically this semester; keep checking BB for those opportunities if you miss an assignment or participation points.
- This class relies so heavily on physically showing up for assignments, making up missed work will be very difficult or impossible in some cases. It would be in your best interest to mark your calendars of important dates!

**Important dates:**

- Town Hall Day: **August 30th, Wednesday @ 10:30am** (required for all theatre & dance majors/minors)
- Labor Day Holiday (no school): **September 4th, Monday**
- Terminology Sheet 1: **Wednesday, October 11th**
- Mid-term: **Monday, October 16th**
- NO CLASS: Wednesday, October 18th
- NO CLASS: November 22nd, Wednesday (before Thanksgiving)
- Thanksgiving Holiday (no school): November 23rd & 24th (Thursday/Friday)
- Terminology Sheet 2: **Wednesday, November 29th**
- Final: **Wednesday, December 6th**
University and Departmental Policies:

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. 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.
**Guidance on Artificial Intelligence**

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is **NOT** permitted in this course.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

**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/)
- Student Success Helpdesk [https://www.utep.edu/advising/student-resources/student-success-helpdesk.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student-resources/student-success-helpdesk.html)
- 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](mailto:desertdanceutep@gmail.com)