

University of Texas at El Paso
Theatre and Dance Department
DANCE 1304 - 001 Introduction to Dance (23195)
Spring 2025

Days, time and Location

MW 10:30 – 11: 50 AM

MNRS, Miners Hall 301

Instructor

Andrea Saucedo Estala

Email

asaucedoestala@utep.edu

Office Location & Hours

M211

TR 11:00 – 12:00

W 9:00 - 10:00 AM

M Virtually 4:00 – 5:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance Appreciation is a class that invites you to the dance world. This class offers you the opportunity to know: What is dance? and What holds the dance world?, getting to know more about dance and being able to appreciate how it works. We will see dance as a politically and socially relevant art form and its environment. You will be able to immerse yourself in professional dance works that will give you different perspectives about movement and how the body/ soul / mind can move and create, because we consider dance as a form of self – expression and self- fulfillment art.

We will study different dance forms across the world, culture, traditions, techniques, pioneers, different eras, and get familiar with the language / vocabulary of Dance Studies and methods of dance – making.

In this course, we will use a book as reference to have a source. The materials for class are organized per modules and weekly assignments. **It is optional to buy the textbook.** All materials are uploaded by the instructor on **Blackboard** every week. Each week has assigned readings, visuals, activities and assessments, structured in Blackboard. Students are required to have access to a computer (with video camera), Blackboard, and to check your UTEP email account frequently.

This class encourages an interactive, energetic and open environment in which participants, while working with commitment and rigor. Feel free to respectfully express doubts, questions and curiosities; sometimes you'll be asked to move and record yourself, according to your possibilities, capabilities, and always feel free to contact your instructor for any inquiry or thought.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize yourself with dance language and vocabulary.
- Develop a knowledge of different forms of dance.
- Address many aspects of dance as an art form.
- Know about the dance world.
- Develop critical thinking and perspectives about dance as an art form in a cultural, political, and social environment.
- To critically and creatively respond to assignments.
(additional goals are listed for each learning module).

COURSE MATERIAL



- Ambrosio, N. (2018). Learning about dance: Dance as an art form & entertainment. Kendall Hunt publishing company.

REMEMBER

The book works as a reference. You do not need to buy the book if you do not want to too.
NOT MANDATORY

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Total: 1000 PTS

Discussion Board (DB) Posts (200 pts)

For the class we will be using Discussion Boards (DB). This tool will make the course more interactive and conversational, it will help you to develop critical thinking respectfully. Students will be asked to post comments and/or videos and to respond **((x2)) to your peers.**

Each DB will be **175 words+** and each response **50 words+**. Due date will be Saturdays by 11:59 p.m.

For the **movement assignment's**: you'll never be graded on the technical quality of dancing, the instructor specially will look at creativity, commitment to the topic and that it is relevant to what

the student will be doing in the course. Feel free to edit the videos if you want and can, just share your best work.

For the **writing assignment recommendation**: Be clear and proofread before submit it.

*I invite you to dedicate enough time to the assignments and activities, patience is a good tool!

- LATE assignments will not be accepted.

Attendance and Participation (300 pts)

As we know participation is crucial for the class:

- Punctuality on answering on time assignments.
- Respectful, polite and thoughtful in responses and feedback to your classmates in DB posts.
- 5 minutes are allowed for tardiness.

MIDTERM

Students will have a little quiz related to what they learned in the class. It may have multiple choices and open questions. Instructor will post details on Blackboard.

DUE Sunday March 9, 2025 by 11:59 pm (200 pts)

Final Research Essay

Students will research a Dance Creation and write a research paper regarding what perspective they had and how it relates with what they learned from the class.. A list of Dance Creations will be provided on *Week 2*, students will choose the one they want to study throughout the semester. Details will be posted on Blackboard by the instructor.

DUE Wednesday May 7, 2025. Submit it on Blackboard by 11:59 pm (300 pts)

Strictly observe this course policy:

All the materials--written, audio and visual--**shared within this course remain within this course.** You can share on your social media your own materials if the only person that appears is you. If you want to share content that includes or is co-authored with other classmates, you will need to discuss the authorization with them and the instructor.

If you need accommodation for an assignment, contact me ASAP.

Course Policies:

- Students are required 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.
- **Respect, Honesty, and Communication.**

EXTRA CREDIT: Details will be provided on Blackboard by the instructor. **T.P - 100 PTS**

Mandatory Performances

Students are required to attend **2 performances** and write about their experience as an audience, throughout all the semester. More information / publicity will be submitted on Blackboard in a specific folder. These are some performances **from the Department of Theatre and Dance Department:**

Monomyth

Tickets on sale January 28, 2025

Artistic Director: Ashley Kroft

Synopsis: Every hero's story, in some way, shape, or form, shares an internal transformation experienced in all of time and place. Leaving your comfort zone to experience something new, whether it's starting a job, traveling to a new place, or pursuing a new hobby. You may choose an aspect of a hero's journey or complete the entire cycle (Separation, Initiation, Return). You, or someone you know, being the hero. Leaving your normal world and entering the unknown. Leaving psychological dependency and transitioning to self-responsibility. Leaving and returning changed. What excites you, and to make that the basis of your personal journey. Not knowing where you are going and finding yourself in an adventure that begins your journey. Which aspect of your journey evokes a resonance within you?

A quote from Joseph Campbell, "... the Monomyth can also be metaphorically applied to someone's spiritual, psychological, or physical journey. Being able to identify elements of the hero's journey in your own life can help you see things in a new light, providing solace and guidance through a transformative period.

Wise Family Theatre

7:30 PM Performances

February 20*, 21, 22, 2025 (*Discount Performance - All Tickets \$10)

2:00 PM Performance

February 23, 2025

Grease

Tickets on sale for UTEP Students/ Faculty/ Staff/Alumni and Groups March 3, 2025

General Public March 4, 2025

Books, Music and Lyrics by Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs

Directed by Jay Stratton

Choreographed by Rebecca Frost Mayer

Synopsis: It's Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum snapping, hip shaking "Pink Ladies", evoking the sound of the 50s. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," and "It's Raining on Prom Night," recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation.

The Dinner Theatre

Dinner Performances (6:30 P.M.)

April 4, 5, 10*, 11, 12, 17*, 18, 19, 2025 (*Discount Dinner Performance)

Matinee Dinner Performance (1:00 P.M.)

April 6*, 2025 (Meal Served) (*Discount Dinner Performance)

No Dinner Matinee Performances (2:00 P.M.)

April 13, 20, 2025 (No Meal Served / General Admission Seating)

Quixote

Tickets on sale January 28, 2025

By Octavio Solis

Directed by Martín Balmaceda

Synopsis: In *Quixote Nuevo*, aging professor José Quijano refuses to fade quietly into the background. When his family plans to move him into an assisted living facility, he makes a daring escape on his trusty tricycle, setting off on a mission to find his long-lost love. As he journeys through the Texas desert, the lines between reality and fantasy blur, and José embraces the identity of Don Quixote. Joined by his faithful but unlucky sidekick, Sancho, they embark on a whimsical, death-defying adventure in the fictional border town of La Plancha. With lively Tejano music setting the tone, *Quixote Nuevo* is a funny, poignant tale of reclaiming one's story, facing Death, and discovering the hero within.

Wise Family Theatre

7:30 Performances

May 2*, 3, 9, 10 (*Discount Performance - All Tickets \$10)

2:00 PM Performances

May 3*, 4, 11 (*Discount Performance - All Tickets \$10)

TICKET PRICES FOR MONOMYTH AND QUIXOTE

\$18 Adults

\$15 UTEP Faculty/Staff, Seniors, Military, Groups (10+), Alumni (with card), Non-UTEP Students

\$12 UTEP Students (with a valid ID), Children (ages 4-12)

TICKET PRICES FOR GREASE

Friday & Saturday Dinner Performances

Adult \$60.50

UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+) \$57.50

UTEP Alumni Association Members**\$57.50

Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$57.50

Non-UTEP Student \$57.50

Military** \$57.50

UTEP Student*** \$18.00

Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Matinee Dinner Performances – Reserved Tables

Adult \$55.50

UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+)** \$53.50

UTEP Alumni Association Members**\$53.50

Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$53.50

Non-UTEP Student \$53.50

Military** \$53.50

UTEP Student*** \$18.00

Sunday No Dinner Matinee Performances – General Admission Seating / No Meal Is Served

Adult \$35.50

UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+)** \$33.50

UTEP Alumni Association Members** \$33.50

Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$33.50

Non-UTEP Student \$33.50

Military** \$33.50

UTEP Student*** \$12.00

*Children 3 years and under are not allowed in the theatre.

**Up to 4 Tickets per valid ID.

***One ticket per valid UTEP ID.

WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS

- The UTEP Ticket Center – Main Location 2901 N. Mesa El Paso, Texas 79902
Monday-Friday: 8 A.M.-6 P.M. Saturday: 8 A.M.-4.PM. Closed on Sundays (915)
747-5234
- UTEP Ticket Center – Union East Location Union Building East, Room 111 (1st Floor)
Hours of Operation Open only Fall & Spring Semesters Monday-Friday: 9am - 2pm
(Hours subject to change)

When purchasing tickets in any discount ticket category the person on the I.D. (student/faculty/military etc.) must be present when purchasing the tickets.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale at UTEP is:

A = 900 - 1000

B = 800

C = 700

D = 600

F = < 500

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance for Dance Classes

The Department has resumed the pre-pandemic attendance guidelines. Of course, we want to support students that contract covid and need time off for legitimate reasons, but don't feel like you need to offer Zoom instruction along with in-person instruction at all times. Instead, you can negotiate on a case-to-case basis what feels best for the students and you, while considering CDC and University guidelines about covid. Also, UTEP continues to offer tests: <https://www.utep.edu/ehs/covid/>

The attendance policy for dance indicates:

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 can use these absences based on personal necessity. The 3rd and 4th absences will result in a drop of ½ a letter grade each in the student's overall grade. In the 5th absence, regardless of the student's current course standing or grade the student will automatically fail the course.

Exceptions:

- In the event of international bridge closures, exceptions may be made and make-up work may be 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.
- 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.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excused absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours of advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

COVID-19

UTEP is no longer asking students to report positive COVID-19 test results to the University.

However, if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, please email covidaction@utep.edu for assistance.

As of March 1, 2024, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its guidelines for people with COVID-19 infections and made them similar to recommendations for other respiratory viruses such as Influenza Virus and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Visit for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/>
www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND COPYRIGHT

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.

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Copying from 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 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 special needs. If you have a disability, abilities that cannot be performed with the given format, and/or you need any accommodation, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at 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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Part of the course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Web. You may use any of the primary Web browsers—Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc. When having technical difficulties, try switching to another browser.

You will need to have or have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, a microphone, or a device (like a phone) that allows you to enter Blackboard, check the emails, and record and watch audio-visual materials. Sometimes, if a video doesn't work or a page doesn't open, it's because you need to download or update Microsoft Office, Adobe, Flashplayer, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java or so. Also, check that your computer 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 me ASAP and I will negotiate an accommodation.

Technical Support. If you do not know how to use Blackboard – contact Tech Support immediately. Do not wait until you do not understand until you are having problems. 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 at 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4p.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare if you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

ON-CAMPUS SOURCES OF STUDENT SUPPORT

- Center for Accommodations and Support Services

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

- Student Success Helpdesk

https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-helpdesk.html

- Miner Learning Center

<https://www.utep.edu/mlc/>

- University Writing Center

<https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>

- Counseling and Psychological Services

<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>

Do- Need more dance in your life? Join the UTEP student organization **DESERT DANCE**.

E-mail desertdanceutep@gmail.com