

**University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Theatre & Dance
DANC 1341, Ballet I**

Fall Semester

Instructor: Kasey Church Brown, Lecturer

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 10:30am-11:30am

Location: Fox Fine Arts, Music Building, Room 211

Appointments Available:

Please e-mail: kcbrown2@utep.edu



**Ballerina: Ashley Boudier, NYCB
Photo Credit: Paul Kolnik**

“First comes the sweat. Then comes the beauty.”

~George Balanchine

Ballet I Course Syllabus

Fall 2023

DANC 1341

Monday, August 28, 2023- Thursday, December 7, 2023

Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am-10:20am

Location: Fox Fine Arts Center - Music M201

The DANC 1341 course will be taught in a synchronous, in-person format. All students are required to attend class in person on both Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-10:20 am MT.

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Please see the course calendars below for more information. Should an unforeseen emergency arise during the semester, the class will be held synchronously online. I will give advance notice of any class that will be held synchronously online and provide a Zoom link for students to attend.

Credit Hours: 3.0 Units

Prerequisites: None

Dear Ballet Students,

I am excited for us to embark on a new semester together in the UTEP Theatre & Dance Department. I look forward to us working together to support, encourage, learn, and create with an eye for kindness and understanding. I believe with the right attitude we will accomplish all our goals. To begin with I have taken this opportunity to set forward the course objectives, which you will find listed below. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to schedule a time to speak with me during my office hours or during another time that is convenient.

Finally, please be respectful of the Intellectual Property Rules provided below. Thank you for your time, effort, and interest in the wonderful art form of dance.

*Sincerely,
Kasey Brown*

Important Dates:

- Critical Analysis Paper: Due Monday, December 11, 2023, by 11:00 pm MT
- Final Exam: Held in class on Thursday, December 7, 2023 (9:00-10:20am)
- School Holidays (No Class): Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day); Thursday-Friday, November 23-24, 2023 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

- Last Day to Add: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, by 5:00pm MT
- Last Day to Drop: Friday, November 3, 2023, by 5:00pm
- Town Hall Meeting: Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 10:30am in Wise Family Theatre
- “Metamorphoses” Audition: Friday, September 1, 2023, at 3:00pm in Room 452
- UTPW Performance Workshop: Friday, November 3, 2023 (Location to follow)

Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of “W”. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either “W” or “F”.

Contact Method:

Please email me at kcbrown2@utep.edu with any questions or concerns. For messages sent Monday-Friday, you can expect a reply within 24 hours. Due to family responsibilities (I have two children at home), I will not be able to reply in a timely manner to messages sent on Saturday or Sunday.

You are also welcome to email me to schedule a meeting with me during my office hours on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30am in Fox, M211

Required Course Materials:

1. Most course material will be available through Blackboard, except for the course textbook. The course textbook listed below is available for purchase through the UTEP Bookstore:

Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant, Third Revised Addition (ISBN# 0-486-21843-0). This text is available in the UTEP Bookstore.

2. Proper attire is required to participate in the DANC 1341 course. Please dress appropriately for the Ballet technique class.
 - You are **required** to purchase and wear the proper ballet shoes. This requirement exists for safety reasons. Ballet shoes (“flats” or “slippers”) can be purchased online through Discount Dance: www.discountdance.com
 - Leotard, t-shirt, tank top, tights, leggings, or athletic shorts and ballet shoes.
 - No bare legs. No denim. No jewelry. No hats. No exceptions.
 - Long hair must be secured up and out of your face. If you forget to put your hair up, I will provide a rubber band and ask you to put your hair up. This rule exists for safety reasons.

Course Calendars:

[UTEP Academic Calendar](#)

Diversity Statement:

My hope is that you will find our Ballet I practice helpful not only physically and mentally, but also for the generosity and appreciation it helps cultivate for each other. I welcome you to share with me your experience throughout the semester. Diversity and inclusivity are not only welcomed but encouraged. Derogatory language or bullying will not be tolerated. I expect we will treat each other with appreciation for our uniqueness and respect for our differences. Our class meetings will be held in a synchronous format in person. It is expected that everyone will treat each other respectfully.

Grading Policy:

Participation (80 Points):

For courses that meet twice a week, the maximum number of absences allowed without failing the course is 4. 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.

Exceptions:

- If a student is quarantining or is not present F2F *because of COVID or COVID symptoms*, as long as the student contacts the instructor and attends class remotely (via Zoom with camera ON), that does not count as an absence provided that the student will submit **a summary of the class via email to the instructor by 11pm MT on the day of observation.**
- 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.

Extra Credit Policy: No more than 2 EXTRA CREDIT assignments will be accepted for classes that have been marked as Unexcused Absences.

Please also keep in mind the following criteria used to determine exemplary participation:

- Remaining engaged throughout the entire class.
- Applying corrections and responding with a positive attitude.
- Practicing course material.
- Asking questions.
- Making every effort to improve one's technique.
- Wearing the proper attire and required shoes.

- Demonstrating responsibility for your technique, assignments, and attitude.

Critical Analysis (10 Points):

The critical analysis will consist of viewing an approved professional dance concert and writing a detailed critical analysis and critique. Please see the list below of “Approved Dance Concerts for Critical Analysis and Critique”. Please remember that viewing one of the dances listed below, as well as writing a critical analysis and critique is a required part of this course. Papers can be submitted in the assignment link in Blackboard at any point during the semester. The deadline to submit the Critical Analysis for credit is on Monday, December 11, 2023 (11:00pm MT).

As part of our dance technique class, you are required to view a dance concert and compose a typed, double-spaced paper detailing your opinion of the dances and experience observing a virtual dance performance. The paper will be composed outside of class time and submitted through the Blackboard site no more than one week after the date of viewing the performance. All papers must be submitted through Blackboard in PDF format. A more detailed description of the expectations for the Critical Analysis and Critique is available in Blackboard (See Dance Concert Critical Analysis and Critique Instructions). Please remember to review the observation and review guidelines prior to attending the concert.

Final Exam (10 Points):

The Choreography Project will be held at the end of the semester. This is the culmination of your Ballet experience for this semester. The project will consist of working in a group with other students in the DANC 1341 course to choreograph a phrase of 8, 8 counts of ballet technique using the movement we have worked on in class during the semester. The Choreography Project will then be performed by the individual groups during our last class on Thursday, December 7, 2023 (9:00-10:20am).

Exam Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9:00am. **Due to the nature of the assignment, late Final Exam Choreographic Projects will not be accepted.** Please make sure to read the directions for the Final Exam in Blackboard prior to beginning the project.

DANC 1342 Course Grading Breakdown:

100 Points Possible

90-100 Points = A- to A+

80-89 Points = B- to B+

70-79 Points = C- to C+

60-69 Points = D- to D+

Below 60 Points = F

Performance Opportunities:

Desert Dance is the dance student organization at UTEP. Please contact the President of this organization, Gabriela Munoz, if you are interested in joining. For info: desertdanceutep@gmail.com

Intellectual Property Rules:

*Please note that all course materials, provided by the instructor and/or other sources, are covered by copyright protections. Students are **not** authorized to record, share, repost, and/or redistribute these materials in any form(s) (such as, but not limited to, hard copy and electronic forms) in any venue(s) (such as, but not limited to, social media platforms and online study material sites). In some cases, sharing, reposting, recording, and/or redistributing course materials constitutes a violation of University of Texas at El Paso academic integrity policies, while in other cases such actions constitute a violation of copyright protections. In all cases, such actions shall have serious consequences. All the materials—written, audio, and visual—shared within this course are required to remain within this course.*

Please Note: You are not permitted to share images or videos on your social media unless they are your own materials AND 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 are required to receive written permission from the other student(s) AND the instructor. Please plan to meet with the instructor and any other students appearing in the image or video to discuss authorization.

Approved Dance Concerts for the Critical Analysis and Critique:

**Please remember that viewing one of the concerts below, as well as writing a critical analysis and critique is a required part of this course.*

EXTRA CREDIT Performance:

***Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman**

Directed by Jay Stratton

Choreography by Melissa Melpignano

Thursday, December 1– Sunday, December 10, 2023

Evening and Matinee Performances Available

Wise Family Theatre

[UTEP Theatre & Dance](#)

Damn Yankees

October 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, & 21, 2023

UTEP Dinner Theatre

Tickets & Info: [UTEP Dinner Theatre](#)

Don Quixote

Choreographed by Marius Petipa

“Kitri Variation” Act III

<https://youtu.be/9lpR7yQ66mc>

Le Bayadere

Choreographed by Marius Petipa
"Death of Nikiya"

<https://youtu.be/2fEG6qAem3A>

Remanso

Choreographed by Nacho Duato
Performed by American Ballet Theatre

https://youtu.be/gq_qJGkysas

Romeo and Juliet

Choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan
"The Balcony Pas de Deux"

<https://youtu.be/7zXfYyqXX0I>

Sleeping Beauty

Choreographed by Marius Petipa
"The Rose Solo"

https://youtu.be/qqeiv_BQ7Zg

Swan Lake

Choreographed by Julius Reisinger
"The Black Swan Pas de Deux"

<https://youtu.be/XfmSv0z205s>

"The Dying Swan"

<https://youtu.be/IW3GAjAKges>

"The Corps de Ballet"

<https://youtu.be/TkCjirMgeM8>

The Nutcracker

Choreographed by Marius Petipa
"The Sugar Plum Pas de Deux"

<https://youtu.be/qy6dlGpC3Ns>

LATE or Missing Course Work/Assignments:

Late assignments are not accepted (No Exceptions). It is your responsibility to turn in your assignments via Blackboard in PDF format by the due date. This is a college course, and you are responsible for assignments and required participation.

Helpful Websites:

UTEP Theatre & Dance Website: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/>

UTEP Dance Degree Requirements: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/academic-programs/bachelor-program.html>

American Ballet Theatre Ballet Dictionary:

<http://www.abt.org/education/dictionary/index.html>

Discount Dance Supply (for ballet shoes and other dance attire):

<https://www.discountdance.com/>

1.Course Description:

DANC 1341- Ballet I

Introduction to basic ballet technique emphasizing a somatic approach. Ballet vocabulary, history, and written assignments are included. The course is open to all students.

2. Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Students will learn beginning ballet technique and principles.
- Students will illustrate proper alignment for ballet positions one through five.
- Students will identify, define, and correctly spell basic ballet terminology.
- Students will develop physical strength, flexibility, coordination, agility, timing, rhythm, grace, and body control.
- Students will analyze elements of a dance performance and develop awareness of style in the technique of ballet.

3.Classroom Expectations:

Please be advised that the Ballet I class is an academic course and not a recreational course. The following classroom expectations are designed to create a supportive, creative, and respectful learning environment.

1. Arrive to class **ON TIME** and ready to learn. Do not be late! If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will NOT be allowed to participate that day and will be asked to observe and take notes instead. This is to protect you from possible injury, as well as to teach proper dance etiquette.
2. Students will only receive credit for observing class 2 times. Students observing class are required to take notes on their observations and submit the notes to the instructor at the end of class. Failure to take notes and submit those notes to the instructor at the end of the class period will result in the student not receiving credit for that day.
3. If you miss class role at the beginning of class, it is your responsibility to let your instructor know you are in attendance after class is over. If you fail to let your instructor know of your attendance that day, you will be marked as not participating. Please be responsible and arrive at class on time.
4. You must check your UTEP email account regularly. If you do not use your UTEP email account, then you must link it to your primary email account. I will use Blackboard to communicate important information such

as directions for the critical analysis paper, information about the final exam, and any class changes.

5. Proper attire is required to participate in class. Please dress appropriately for the Ballet technique class (Required: Leotard, t-shirt, tank top, tights, leggings, and ballet shoes. No bare legs. No shorts. No denim).
6. You are required to wear proper ballet shoes. Ballet shoes (“flats” or “slippers”). This rule exists for safety reasons. Ballet flats can be purchased online through Discount Dance: www.discountdance.com
7. Hair must be secured off the neck and away from the face. You will be asked to put your hair up if you come to class without it properly secured. This rule exists for safety reasons.
8. No hats. Minimal jewelry is expected.
9. You may wear warm-up clothes if they are approved, but they should be removed by mid-barre. This enables me to see your placement and offer valuable corrections. What I cannot see, I cannot correct.
10. No gum! No gum! No gum! If you are chewing gum during class, you will be required to spit it out in the trash can outside. This rule exists for safety reasons.
11. It is expected that each student will work hard, challenge their personal best, and remain attentive throughout the class.
12. Participate physically and mentally in a safe manner. It is important to listen to your body! We will discuss this throughout the quarter.
13. Exhibit the ability to spontaneously respond to auditory and visual cues.
14. This is a very physically active course. I will use visual and auditory cues to teach the technique. I also use physical adjustments to correct anatomical mistakes to help prevent injury. If you are uncomfortable having me correct you in a physical manner, please let me know with a simple, “No thank you” in person or via email.
15. I hope that any student who does not understand the material presented will ask for a further explanation at an appropriate time.
16. Please be responsible. This is an academic class. Please feel free to schedule a meeting with me during my office hours should you need additional support (Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30am).
17. Conduct yourself in a manner that is respectful and supportive of yourself, your instructor, and your fellow students.
18. It is **YOUR** responsibility to drop the class if you are no longer attending.
19. It is expected that students will follow the Intellectual Property Rules as they apply to this course.
20. At the end of each class, each student is responsible for cleaning the floor, barres, and/or other surfaces with the sanitizing wipes provided by the UTEP Theatre & Dance Department.
21. Finally, enjoy your ballet practice. This is your time to learn, enjoy and cultivate your appreciation and understanding of the art of ballet.

UTEP Dance Policies:

Absence Policy:

For courses that meet four and five times a week (F2F and/or synchronously), 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. On the 9th absence, the student fails the course regardless of course average. Five tardies (over 10 minutes late) count as one absence.

Four courses that meet twice a week (F2F and/or synchronously), the maximum number of absences allowed without failing the course is 4. 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.

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.

Subject Matter:

The performing arts have the 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, please see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodation. As we will respect your individual right to choose what shows you want to see, we expect all our discussions- including any that may occur outside or class- to be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.

UTEP COVID-19 Information:

Please use the link below to read through UTEP's updated COVID-19 policy.

<https://www.utep.edu/ehs/covid/>

Questions can be directed to COVIDAction@utep.edu

UTEP Policies:

UTEP Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty Policy

This course will adhere to UTEP's Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. A link is provided below.

From: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

Disability Statement:

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

- If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.
- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are required to contact both your instructor and the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services at Union East Building, Room 106, by email at cass@utep.edu or by phone at (915) 747-5148.
- Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours to discuss their disability related needs. Use of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services, including testing accommodations, requires prior authorization by the CASS office and compliance with approved procedures.
- It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodation to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructor to discuss their individual needs for accommodation.
- If CASS determines a student needs accommodation, the CASS office will notify the instructor via e-mail.

UTEP Campus Support Information for Students:
[Campus Support Information for Students](#)

UTEP Counseling Center Information:
[Counseling Center Information](#)

UTEP Tech Support:
[Technical Support](#)

***Please note:** This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check for announcements made while you were absent. Thank you.