Course Description: A beginning level studio class in the elegance and precision of Classical Ballet Technique. Students will participate in guided vigorous exercises at the barre followed by the practice of combinations of steps in the center of the room. Daily lessons will include the learning of basic steps, mechanics, terminology, etiquette, and history of this enduring and highly expressive art form.

Course Objective(s): 1) To develop an ability to perform beginning level steps in ballet technique. 2) To understand the body mechanics involved in a somatic (mind/body centered) approach to classical ballet technique. 3) To become familiar with the meaning and spelling of basic ballet vocabulary words and terms. 4) To begin a study and understanding of the history of western classical dance and its place in the development of the performing arts and humanities in western civilization.

Course Text: Online sites and handouts will serve as course texts.

You will also need a notebook for notes and journaling.

Course Policies: Ballet is a strict dance form with a very particular class etiquette. We want to honor the traditions and methods of that etiquette.

Students are expected to be in the studio and ready to begin class by 9:35. If you are tardy, you will wait at the studio door for permission to enter.

Long hair must be pulled away from the face and secured either in a bun (women) or a ponytail (men).

No street shoes are allowed on the studio floor.

Jewelry must be kept to a minimum, and only small pieces that do not dangle are allowed.

Women will wear a simple black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers. A small black dance skirt or short is optional.

Men will wear a white short-sleeve t-shirt, black tights, elastic band belt, black ballet slippers, a dance belt or dance brief.

No food or drink in the studio except bottled water.

Do not leave the room without permission during the class.

Assessment: You will have two danced, or “practical” exams, in which you will perform steps and combinations that we will study during the semester. These practicals will be over material specifically
prepared for the test and you will know the material well before testing begins. The dates for these exams are: Wednesday, October 17, and Wednesday, December 5. These tests will occur during your regular class period. Each practical will be graded on the following scale:

90-100 excellent

80-90 good

70-80 developing, but needs improvement

60-70 not on par with class expectations

< than 60 unsatisfactory

Practical grades will be averaged and will count for 20% of your total grade.

You will also have two written exams over material we will have studied in class and on your own from the book and other videos and readings. These tests will be given in class on the following dates:

Friday, October 19 and Friday, November 30. These written exams will be based on a 100 pt. scale. I will average the two grades and that total will count as 15% of your final grade.

Performance attendance and critique: you will attend the University Dance Company performance during the semester (November 1 – 4) and write a 2.5 page paper describing the show and your impression of the performers, the setting, the action/dance, and the overall success of the production. This assignment will be loaded on Blackboard and is due November 12 at 5:00 p.m. this assignment is worth 5% of your grade. There will be several possible shows to attend and performance dates will be announced as soon as they are available. Ticket prices for this show will vary in price.

Attendance: The remaining 60% of your grade will be your attendance and participation grade. You may be absent 3 times during the semester before your grade is affected. After that your grade will be reduced according to the scale found in the Dance Program’s No Fault Absence Policy found at the end of this syllabus.

Extra Credit: Attendance to any and all performances produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance will earn extra credit. Email me a photo of your ticket stub and program and also a one paragraph summary of some area of the show. Each show = 5 pts. Toward your daily grade.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical exams average</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written exams average</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance viewing</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A = 90 +
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
D = 65 – 69
F = < 65

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**NO FAULT ABSENCE/LATENESS/PARTICIPATION POLICY**

The quality of a student’s education in dance is related to time in class under the immediate tutelage of a skilled professor. In addition, on-time, entire-time, active participation in each class enables the student to experience the clarity and understanding that best comes with an immediacy that includes the support of other equally dedicated learners. Therefore, studio classes in the performing arts mimic professional, real-world demands for presence, timeliness, and participation. The job of a professor is to provide the student with information, challenges, insights and instant feedback about their progress both in class and over the term. That can only occur with dedicated participation.
If a student is not present in one class or does not participate to the fullest extent, that particular experience will have been missed. It cannot be made up from books, by extra credit assignments, or in any other way. It is gone! Then, for some days after, as the student struggles to embody what was already provided for the others, the quality of those experiences is somewhat less than might have been gained had the first class not been missed. Missing or not fully participating in multiple classes significantly decreases the chances of consistent improvement.

The Dance Program, therefore, has developed a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. Students need not offer any reason for an absence, lateness (after five minutes of class time), or an early exit, or for not participating. The faculty completely understands that students are adults and sometimes need to prioritize their loyalties to their studies after their other responsibilities including taking care of sickness and family matters. Although faculty empathize with this, they are not judges who evaluate the quality of a student’s excuses. Excuses are not necessary since they are always accepted and counted either as a No-Fault absence, lateness or early exit, or non-participation. We will simply record the situation.

An absence (or lateness greater than 10 minutes) is recorded as 1 debit, a 9 minute lateness or early exit is a .5 debit, and an observed/non-participation class is also a .5 debit.

Sample for a three class-per-week course

0 - .5 = +10 (whole grade credit);
1 - 1.5 = +7 (little more than half grade);
2 - 2.5 = +5 (half grade credit);
3 - 3.5 = +3 (little less than 1/2 a grade);
4 - 4.5 = 0 (no credit/debit);
5 - 5.5 = -10 (one grade debit);
6 - 6.5 = -20 (two Grade debit);
7 - 7.5 = -30 (three Grade debit).

Sample for a two class-per-week course

0-.5 = +10 (whole grade credit);
1-1.5 = + 5 (half grade credit)
2  = +3 (quarter grade credit);
2.5 - 3 = 0 (no credit/debit);
3.5 = -10 (one grade debit);
4  = -20 (two grade debit);
4.5 = -30 (three grade debit);
5.0 = -40 (automatic F)

In case a student becomes temporarily injured or too ill to dance but is able to be present in the studio, he/she may observe class. However, students who are observing must complete an assignment that may include, but is not limited to, self-reflective notes about their own dancing in relation to the classwork observed or a critique of another student’s participation listing their positive qualities, areas that need improvement, suggestions for improvement, and comparisons to their own personal growth. Notes must be turned in at the deadline and in the condition as instructed by the faculty member. If a student’s condition will not allow completion of the assignment by the deadline set by the faculty member, they need to recuperate outside of class.

All students may accumulate a total of absence/lateness/early exit, or observations with no penalty that fit the following class-per-week formula. A one-day per week technique or performance course allows a total two, no-fault absence/lateness/early exit non-participation, a two-day per week course has a total of three no-fault days, and a three day-per-week course allows four. Each absence over the allotted one-week-plus-one worth lowers the final letter grade by one letter.

No excuses other than those that appear in the University of Texas Rules and Regulations concerning religious holidays or those that have been approved in writing by the Dean of Students according to the rules and notification schedule in the UTEP Catalog will be accepted.

Some faculty members may specify a limited number of extra-credit assignments that might help students either raise a grade that may be diminished by an excess of missed, tardy, early exit, or non-participation classes. These opportunities are entirely at the discretion of individual faculty members and may vary from course to course. Nadel doesn’t offer that alternative!

If a student experiences a personal or family emergency that would, by these no-fault standards cause a failing grade, the faculty will help the student withdraw from the course, even after the withdrawal date deadline. However, the situation must be documented in writing by usually by a health care professional if illness or injury has struck.

A dancer prepares for a life that includes the all-important trait, self-discipline. Dedicated, active involvement and intellectual development are but some of the other traits. Therefore, the dance faculty believes that attending academic classes needs the same commitment as technique classes and will enforce strict policies in all courses with the DANC prefix.