SYLLABUS ADVANCED BALLET FALL 2015

Ballet V DANC 3341 18312—Cross listed with Ballet VII DANC 4341 18312 and Ballet III 2341 18307

M-F 1:30 – 2:50 FOX FINE ARTS 452

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: LISA SMITH

This course is taught by both Lisa Smith (MWF) and Myron Nadel (TR). All class business and grading is handled by the instructor of record (Smith).

LISAS@UTEP.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: MW 11:30 – 1:00

USE BLACKBOARD IF AVAILABLE; CONTACT PROFESSOR THROUGH BLACKBOARD ABOUT CLASS MATTERS ONLY.

Course Goals:

To become technically and artistically proficient in advanced-level ballet technique, combinations, theory, and vocabulary.

To perform advanced level ballet combinations alone or in small groups with a high degree of precision, dynamics, efficiency, strength, endurance, musicality, and personal artistry.

To analyze, critique, and generally assess personal performance in class.

Course description:

Advanced ballet is a continuation of lessons in classical ballet technique. More variety and complexity are found in barre and center work combinations. Added emphasis on fluent phrasing, rhythmic articulation, and efficient alignment is stressed. Regular pointe, partnering, men’s work, and variations are part of the lessons.

Requirements:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes; however, a maximum of 5 classes may be missed without penalty to your grade (only 3 classes may be missed without penalty for the Ballet III/Intermediate Ballet for Non Majors class). Just so you know, this policy is based on the general No Fault Absence Policy followed by the faculty of the Dance Program, HOWEVER, five classes in an absurd amount of classes for an advanced dancer to miss. Daily class is part of a dancer’s life, and as a training professional, you need to make that daily class a part of your life now. While missing 5 classes will not LOWER your grade, it is difficult to imagine a dancer missing five classes earning an A in technique class. That many absences will surely affect your overall effort and commitment assessment. If your work and attendance are excellent, you may earn an A. Latecomers will be penalized ½ absence for each tardiness. If you are too ill or injured to participate but are not contagious, you may attend and observe for credit a
maximum of two times. No make-up classes are offered. See the Dance Program’s No Fault Attendance Policy posted on Blackboard for more detail.

Dress: Ballet class is not the place to try out your fashion self-expression. Come dressed for business with respect for the work you are going to do.

Women: ballet slippers, pointe shoes, black or pink tights, solid colored leotard.

Men: ballet shoes, black tights, tight fitting shirt, dance belt.

Tight fitting leg warmers and sweaters are permissible, if necessary. Hair must be close to the head and held in place.

Examinations (practicals) 20% of final grade:

You will take three faculty-generated practicals (in-class performance) examinations. The faculty test material may be presented by the professor, either before or at the examination.

Practical 1: Monday, September 28

Practical 2: Monday, November 2

Practical 3: Wednesday, December 2

For each combination performed, you may earn a 9 – 10 Excellent, 8 – 9 Good, 7 – 8 Satisfactory, 6 – 7 Below Level, 5 – 6 Unsatisfactory, or 0 (unacceptable or not performed). See the Practical Grading Rubric icon on the blackboard homepage. No makeups are given for practical exams.

Ballet Self-Assessment Project: Three big Concepts:

1) Technique of Port de Bras, upper spine, and head.

2) Technique of turning.

3) Technique of Rhythm and Ballon in Jumps.

We will investigate these concepts through journaling/blogging on Blackboard throughout the semester. While we will work on combinations in all areas of ballet technique in each unit, special attention will be paid to one concept’s theory, imagery, and performance at a time, and your journaling should reflect that attention. Some of this journaling will be directed through discussion prompts, and some of it will be free journaling. We will refer to Eric Franklin’s Dance Imagery for Technique and Performance, Agrippina Vaganova’s Basic Principles of Classical Ballet, Gretchen Ward Warren’s Classical Ballet Technique, material from the syllabus of the Royal Ballet School, and other sources. All text material is provided on Blackboard. Be prepared to journal thoughtfully and thoroughly with attention to correct spelling and grammar. This project will count 20% of your total grade.
Daily Grade: Attendance, Participation, Effort, Improvement 60% of final grade:

See No Fault Absence Policy.

Regular and committed class attendance is a given among professional dancers. As an advanced level dancer, you are either getting close to graduating or have attained an advanced level of technical ability. In either case, in this class, a high level of commitment, leadership, and professionalism is expected of you. Your daily grade reflects your understanding and demonstration of these qualities. Do not miss class. Dress appropriately. Leave your personal problems at the door. Dance to the best of your ability every day. Be the dancer you can be. Nothing less is worth your time or mine.

Final Percentage Points and Grade:

90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 60=D. Perfect attendance adds 10 points; one missed class adds 5 points.

”I am always doing things I can't do, that's how I get to do them.” -- Picasso