SYLLABUS, ADVANCED BALLET SPRING 2017

Ballet VII DANC 4342 21776—Cross listed with Ballet VI DANC 3342 23731 and Ballet IV 2342 26993

M-F 1:30 – 2:50 FOX FINE ARTS 452

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: LISA SMITH  lisas@utep.edu  Fox Fine Arts 200

Office hours: TR 10:30 – 12:00 and by appointment

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).

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 in Ballet VI and VIII without penalty to your grade. For Ballet IV you are only allowed 3 absences without penalty since you only attend class three times a week. 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 number 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)** 25% 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. This semester’s practicals will be again based on exercises found in the Royal Ballet Class World Ballet Day videos, this time from 2015 and 2016.

**Practical 1:** Wednesday, February 22

**Practical 2:** Wednesday, April 12

**Practical 3:** Wednesday, May 3

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:** Reflections on Professional Work.

You will write a journal reflecting on your attempts at each of the professional company-level work we will be attempting this semester for a total of THREE written reflections. These should be detailed and specific responses to your practical work. How did you approach your study? What did you learn from this assignment? How will this assignment prepare you for the next practical or your continuing study of ballet?

Be prepared to journal thoughtfully and thoroughly with attention to correct spelling and grammar. These combined journals will count 15% of your total grade. A template for these ‘reflections’ is provided on Blackboard. Post them online on Blackboard. Your edited and typed journals are due:

**Reflection #1** Friday, February 24  5:00 pm

**Reflection #2** Friday, April 14  5:00 pm

**Reflection #3** Monday, May 8  5:00 pm

**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

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 class-work 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 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. See the individual DANC syllabus for specifics.

In addition to the no-fault policy, for DANC 1151 and 3151 the number of missed or late sessions allowed for any rehearsal, performance or crew assignment is zero. Professionals do not miss rehearsals and are not late for rehearsals. Any student may be removed from any dance piece or production assignment if the rehearsal director believes that his/her absence negatively impacts the rehearsal,
performance, or production process, and the student's grade will be lowered to reflect this removal.

**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

**Copyright and Fair Use:**

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.

**ADA:**

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.