

DANC 4341 001

ADVANCED BALLET (HYBRID)

CRN 16731

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Melpignano

E-mail: mmelpignano@utep.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4 PM. Just “walk in” through the Zoom link. Send an email if you need to schedule an appointment at another time (always indicate your preferred days/times and UID)

Topic: Dr. Melissa Melpignano Virtual Office Hours

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/83656936945?pwd=bUorMm5CMjNaT3RkUUVpL2NKdklTQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 5693 6945

Passcode: 830052

Weekly Calendar

Monday: live on Zoom (see link in box below)

Tuesday: live on Zoom (see link in box below)

Wednesday: do a 30 to 50 min. Yoga practice for free on <https://www.downdogapp.com/> and/or take a ballet class with Tamara Rojo on the English National Ballet YouTube channel

Thursday: live on Zoom (see link in box below)

Friday:

- On the following Fridays, 1) *September 11*, 2) *September 25*, 3) *October 9*, 4) *October 30*, 5) *November 6*, 6) *November 20*, you will have a Conditioning for Ballet class with dance artist and certified teacher Darrian O’Reilly, MFA. The Zoom link will be provided for this classes.
- On the remaining Fridays, you will be assigned some readings (posted on Blackboard) with journal reflections on the class Discussion Board (DB).

Topic: Advanced Ballet Fall 2020 live on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/84569391374?pwd=RVpq3M5UklKVEJZZFAvcnBCZkdhZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 6939 1374

Passcode: 568424

Course description

Drawing from different ballet traditions and relying on interdisciplinary knowledge (yoga, martial arts, BMC, etc.), this course approaches ballet as a practice, aesthetic form, and technique with a body-positive approach, in order to serve the needs of the 21st century performance artist. This course offers the tools to strengthen the dancer's performative quality, their technical versatility, and work ethics.

Students are expected to demonstrate technical and artistic proficiency in ballet technique, performance, and aesthetics at an advanced level (rigor, specificity, musicality, stamina, nuanced movement quality, effective use of energy, etc.). This entails an ability to quickly learn complex combinations, familiarity with ballet vocabulary, autonomy in responding to the instructors' feedback, responsibility in taking care of the body (proper warm-up, conditioning, stretching, etc.), a professional attitude in graciously helping the fellow students-colleagues improve their performance through polite and specific feedback.

Learning Goals:

- Confident alignment, core stability, ongoing development of the turn-out.
- Performance of fundamental principles such as lengthening, grounding, spiraling, ballon.
- Rigor in execution (memory, musicality, precision in technique, energy, and performance quality, efficient breathing)
- Versatility and adaptability to different ballet styles and teaching methods.
- Demonstrated kinesthetic awareness (an awareness of how one's own musculature and skeletal structure work in relation to one's own body and other bodies in space).
- Demonstrated knowledge of ballet positions, terms, and concepts.
- Demonstrated work ethics (punctuality, participation, collegiality, commitment to the work)

Course Policies

- Students are expected to be in the virtual class on time and ready to start. If you are tardy, please send an email to the instructor explaining the reason for being late.
- Even online, long hair must be pulled away from the face and secured in order to avoid distractions while moving. Make sure you wear clothes that allow the instructor to offer feedback.
- Appropriate dance/fitness attire is required to participate in the virtual class—you can wear socks instead of ballet shoes, if preferred.

UTEP students with valid ID have a discount in the following dance stores in El Paso: Dance Designs (central) and Distractions (inside Champion Dance Studios - far eastside).

Grading

Participation (15 points)

Attendance to live classes (M, T, W with Melissa, and Fridays with Darrian O'Reilly), engagement, commitment, focus, work ethic, collegiality.

Technical Progress (35 points)

Ongoing technical progress throughout the class. I recommend periodical checks-in during office hours. Don't hesitate to ask for feedback!

Mid-term Creative Assignment (10 points)

Due in class live on Monday, October 19 (week 9). Instructions will be announced.

Final class Creative Assignment (10 points)

Due in class on Thursday, December 3 (week 15). Instructions will be announced.

Discussion Board-Journaling Practice (30 points)

Differently from my previous classes, your weekly writing is a *shared personal reflection* on your progress, learning, discoveries in relation to the practice and the assigned materials. You will post your weekly reflection on the class Discussion Board (each week under the appropriate thread). Guidelines on the DB writing practice will be given in class. Total points 30, so 2 points max per week.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90 +

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 65 – 69

F = < 65

University and Departmental Policies

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.

ABSENCE/LATENESS/PARTICIPATION POLICY. For courses that meet four and five times a week, the maximum allowance for an entire semester is **10** absences. The 9th and 10th absences result in the lowering of the overall course grade by ½ letter. At the 11th absence, the student fails the course regardless of course average.

Exceptions:

- 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.

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/>
- Equal Opportunity Office, Anti-Sexual Harassment and Anti-Sexual Violence Sources <https://www.utep.edu/eoaa/resolving-complaints/sexual-harassment-guide.html>