

DANC 2342 + 3342

BALLET FOUNDATIONS 2 + INTERMEDIATE BALLET (HYBRID)

CRN 24849 + 25754

*Spring 2021*

**Instructor:** Dr. Melissa Melpignano

E-mail: [mmelpignano@utep.edu](mailto:mmelpignano@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** for an appointment, contact the instructor via e-mail; the appointment will be held on

**Zoom:** Meeting ID: 836 5693 6945; Passcode: 830052

**Weekly Calendar**

**ZOOM LINK FOR SYNCHRONOUS CLASSES:** <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/87037207634?pwd=THMvdCtJeEhWT21mQlNrYWRCcVZ5Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 870 3720 7634  
Passcode: gMQ14XZf

**Monday:** live on Zoom (see link in box above)

**Tuesday:** live on Zoom

**Wednesday:** your practice: free Yoga/barre practice on <https://www.downdogapp.com/> (free if you register with your UTEP email!!!); 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) **except for** Jan 28 (week 2): no class but **AUDITIONS** (details and link in e-mail announcement)

**Friday:** mandatory for DANC 3342; valid for extra credit for DANC 2342

Jan 22 (week 1): no class but Dance Students/Faculty meeting (e-mail announcement)

Jan 29 (week 2): join the free masterclass from virtual Bailando [www.ccbailando.com](http://www.ccbailando.com)

Starting February 5: Yoga classes with Carla Weaver every Friday (except Spring break)

**Last class:** Tuesday, May 4

**Course description**

Drawing from different ballet traditions and relying on interdisciplinary knowledge (drawn from specific streams of 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 21<sup>st</sup> century performance artist. This course offers the tools to strengthen the dancer's performative quality, their technical versatility, and work ethics. The key-word for this semester is **explosivity**.

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)
- Awareness and management of softness and strength
- 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)
- Improvement in explosive movement principles and qualities (in particular for jumps, shifts, and lifts).

### 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.
- Make sure your full body is visible on Zoom. Minimize distractions as much as you can.

*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 (20 points)

Attendance to live classes (Mon, Tue, Thur live with Melissa, and Fridays\*), engagement, commitment, focus, work ethic, collegiality. Attendance to the UTEP Online Dance Concert on February 5 and 6 (details via e-mail). (\*) extra credit activities count toward participation. Possible new extra-credit opportunities will be announced.

### Technical Progress (50 points)

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

### Mid-term Reflection (15 points)

Due on Blackboard (folder on the homepage) on Thursday, March 11 by 11.59 pm (week 8). A thoughtful and knowledgeable reflection on your technical progress, your learning process, your discoveries in relation to your ballet practice and performing body and persona, and in conjunction with your Wednesday and Friday training practices. Use the appropriate ballet terminology, which needs to be correctly used and spelled. Further clarifications in class.

### Final class Reflection (15 points)

Due on Blackboard folder on the homepage on Thursday 30 and Tuesday, December 1 (week 15). A continuation of your self-reflective process. Like the midterm assignments, it need to be a thoughtful and knowledgeable reflection on your technical progress, your learning process, your discoveries in relation to your ballet practice and performing body and persona, and in conjunction with your Wednesday and Friday training practices. Use the appropriate ballet terminology, which needs to be correctly used and spelled. Further clarifications in class.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> absences result in the lowering of the overall course grade by ½ letter. At the 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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>