

**Ballet II**  
DANC 1342

**Spring 2020**

**Instructor: Dr. Melissa Melpignano**

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Class meets: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30-11:50 AM  
Fox Fine Arts M201

Office hours: Tuesday 10.30-11.30 AM in Fox Fine Arts Center – Music M211  
or by appointment  
Always sign-up for a time slot at <https://drmelissamelpignano.youcanbook.me>

*“I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times.” — Bruce Lee*

*“I’m reflective only in the sense that I learn to move forward. I reflect with a purpose” — Kobe Bryant*

**Course description**

This class offers the tools to obtain a solid understanding and ability to execute ballet fundamentals. Drawing from different traditions and with a body-positive approach, this course allows students to familiarize with basic ballet poses, placement, steps, performance presence, anatomical investigations, while learning about their technical evolution from a strictly codified and prescriptive standpoint to a more inclusive, enjoyable, and non-deterministic practice.

Classes include daily warm-up and technique at the barre and center, with occasional analyses of ballet videos and discussions of the assigned readings (announced in class and posted on Blackboard).

This course encourages an open, interactive, and energetic environment in which participants, while working with commitment, precision, and respect, feel comfortable with their bodies, feel free to express curiosities, doubts and questions, and cultivate their professional aspirations.

No previous knowledge of ballet or dance is required.

**Learning Goals:**

- Confident application of the principles of ballet alignment and placement.
- Application of other ballet principles such as musicality, coordination, development of stamina and flexibility, ability to memorize exercises.

- Demonstrated kinesthetic awareness, meaning an awareness of how one's own musculature and skeletal structure work in relation to the positions and movements the body exercises in time and space (we'll talk about this!).
- Knowledge of the basic technical terms (*see the Ballet Glossary on Blackboard*) and ballet positions we will explore in class.
- Demonstrated work ethics (punctuality, participation, collegiality, commitment to the work)

### **Mandatory Performances (2 total)**

- *American College Dance Association (ACDA) conference event, An evening with guest artists:* Guest artists Lux Boreal, a dynamic Tijuana-based contemporary dance company known for complex and stunning dances, and solo artist Gesel Mason, creator of BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers.

Saturday, March 14, 7 PM

Fox Fine Arts Center, Wise Family Theatre

\$20

- *Into the Beautiful North*

April 24 through May 3 (check the

Fox Fine Arts Center, Wise Family Theatre

\$12 UTEP Students

→ Get tickets in person at the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance Box Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Fox Fine Arts.

**Readings and materials** will be posted on Blackboard

### **Course Policies**

- Respectful and non-intrusive touch of body parts to offer feedback on alignment or form is part of the teaching pedagogy in several studio practices. However, if students do not feel comfortable with touch, they are encouraged to communicate it to the instructor, who will find alternative ways to give feedback.

- Students are expected to be in the studio and ready to begin class by 10:30 at the latest. If you are tardy, please send an email to the instructor explaining the reason for being late, and, once you arrive, wait at the studio door for permission to enter. Joining while an exercise is performed is not allowed.

- Long hair must be pulled away from the face and secured in order to avoid distractions while moving.

- No street shoes are allowed on the studio floor.

Appropriate dance/fitness attire is required to participate in the class, as well as soft ballet shoes (socks are allowed only for exercises at the barre). Please use this website as a reference:

[https://www.discountdance.com/dancewear/style\\_S0621L.html?pid=4887&shop=Style&rfilter=Category%23Shoes&SID=1335625486](https://www.discountdance.com/dancewear/style_S0621L.html?pid=4887&shop=Style&rfilter=Category%23Shoes&SID=1335625486)

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

No food or drink in the studio except bottled water.

## Grading

- Active participation, commitment, progress, peer-work, and work ethic **40**

- “Ballet exploration” journal (Mid-term submission: in class Monday, March 9;  
Final submission: in class Wed, May 6) (12+13) **25**

An actual paper notebook where, with at least one entry per week, you self-reflect on your practice, self-assess your progress, elaborate original and personal thoughts on ballet practice (writing, drawing, collaging, etc.—all welcome).

- Final class (Wednesday, May 6, 2020) **20**

Open to friends, family, and invited faculty; it is the chance to show your progress and the hard work you put into the class, perform your idea of ballet, and demonstrate mastery of the acquired technical skills (in particular the four core principles of the course) according in line with your potential and the course’s learning goals.

- In-class discussion about readings and videos **15**

## 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.* In a course that meets twice a week, a student is allowed a maximum of 4 absences in an entire semester, 2 of which require no justification and result in no penalty. A student may use these absences based on personal necessity. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student's overall grade. At the 5<sup>th</sup> absence, regardless of the student's current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails the course.

Exceptions:

- In the event of international bridge closures, exceptions may be made and make-up course work assigned.
- 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.

In case of injury, a student who is able to be present in the studio may observe class and complete alternative and equivalent assignments to be negotiated with the instructor.

#### 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>

