

**DANC 3348 - Jazz & Other Stage Dance Forms II**  
**Spring 2018**

MW 12:00 – 1:20 PM

FOX A 452

**Instructor:** Sandra Paola López Ramírez

**Office:** FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 1:20 PM or by appointment.

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*This syllabus is subject to change, I will notify you promptly if and when it does.*

**Course Description:**

Jazz dance is very broad and complex, and many styles have emerged out of what can be considered “traditional” jazz dance. This class is focused on one of those styles, **Latin Jazz**, and introduces Latin American dances deeply rooted in African rhythms (e.g. mambo, cha-cha-cha, cumbia, mapalé) while blending urban dance, traditional jazz and contemporary styles. The warm-up and center exercises guide dancers to improve their body’s strength, flexibility, and coordination, and enhance their musicality while breaking down the intricacies of Latin rhythms and movement isolations. The across the floor combinations and class choreography are focused on spatial dominance and awareness, empowerment of the dancer and performance presence.

**Dress code:**

In order to promote safe movement and aid my ability to make corrections, you are required to wear clothes that ‘hug’ your body. I need to see your body clearly, specifically your knees, pelvis and spine to instruct proper alignment. Even though you are not required to wear tights and leotards, you **DO** need to make sure that you comply with the specifications above. I will **NOT** allow you to take class in baggy or oversized clothes, jeans, dresses, with dangly jewelry or chewing gum. **This is for YOUR safety.** If you are unsure if what you have to wear is acceptable, please check with me the first week of class. You will be required to be barefoot for the first half of the class. For the second portion, you are welcome to wear soft jazz shoes, ballet slippers or socks if it helps your ease of turning.

**Objectives:**

- To enhance awareness and skill of movement initiation and motivation.
- To improve muscular strength, flexibility, and elasticity.
- To improve dance presence and performance quality.
- To increase awareness of how our bodies occupy and move through space.
- To gain a basic understanding of Latin American rhythms and how they can be fused and applied to jazz technique.
- To acquire/increase understanding of Jazz and Latin dance.

## Criteria for Grading

**Effort (140 points total, 5 per class for 28 classes):** Each day, I will take into consideration your class participation, effort, attire, and energy. Please be advised that this is in addition to the department's attendance policy: if you are not present, you cannot get points. If classes are canceled for any reason, the total amount of points will be adjusted.

**Midterm Movement Exam (100 points):** This will entail performing one (1) center exercise or short combination and the class choreography. You will perform these in small groups and I will give you a breakdown of the points before the exam. Exam date: **March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading responses (100 points total, 20 points each):** There will be a total of 5 short readings throughout the semester that you will need to respond to in writing reflections. Responses should be 500-600 words and should be uploaded via blackboard in a Word or PDF file ONLY. These assignments are intended to give you the opportunity to flesh out your ideas and opinions about Jazz Dance and beyond. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading. I want you to draw from it and to relate it to issues that you believe are important in our class and/or in your life. *Remember:* I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading. Due dates are: **January 24<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM.**

**Performance Response (50 points):** You are required to attend *Iconic Pop* (the spring dance concert from UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance) and share a creative response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). Due date: **February 19<sup>th</sup> in class.**

**Final Creative Dance Project (100 points):** You will work in groups of 4 or 5 to create a 32-64 count phrase to perform for the class. Music will be assigned and guidelines will be handed out with group assignments by **March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Performance date: **April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Total points possible: 490

A = 90-100% (441-490)

B = 80-89% (392-440)

C = 70-79% (343-391)

D = 60-69% (294-342)

F = 50% and below (293<)

**Late-work Policy:** I do NOT accept late work. Please plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to turn in assignments on time. If something extraordinary comes up that will prevent you from turning in an assignment (accident, death in the family, severe illness, etc.) you must let me know (if at all possible) **BEFORE the due date** to request an extension.

**Attendance Policy:** You have two (2) absences permitted during the course of the semester without penalty. After that, **your grade will be lowered 1/2 a letter grade for each day missed.**

Keep in mind that coming to class late or leaving early will be considered as 1/2 an absence. **Students missing more than six classes should drop the course. Please make sure you are aware of the course drop deadline, dropping the class is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!** Keep in mind that the only absences that are excused are UTEP sponsored events.

*NOTE:* In certain circumstances, I will allow you to make up absences. If you want to do this, please schedule an appointment with me to discuss it further.

**Remember that the number of absences you have may lower your final grade!!!**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get up to 20 points of extra credit by attending extra events or performances sponsored or produced by UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance. You can view our upcoming events here: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/> and I have already included the first two for you in the schedule below.

In order to get credit, you have to sign the sign-up sheet provided **after** each show or event attended **AND** submit the ticket-stub or program to your instructor **by Friday of the week after the show**. For example, if you attend the performance of *transfronteriza* on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the last day you can turn in your program and get credit will be Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each event or performance is worth 5 points. **Please include your name and class on the ticket or program.**

#### **Important Dates:**

**Friday 01/19 – Extra credit opportunity:** UTEP Technical Theater Workshops special guest talks. FREE

**3:15pm-4:15pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre**

*"Diversity and Inclusion in the Theatre"*

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

**6:30pm-8:00pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre**

*"Struggle of Identity and Cultural Relevance in the Arts"*

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

**Wednesday 1/24 – MANDATORY:** Reading response #1 due.

**Monday 2/5 –** Instructor out of town. Guest teacher

**Wednesday 2/7 –** Instructor out of town. Guest teacher

**Friday 02/09 – Saturday 02/17 – MANDATORY: *Iconic Pop*** at the Wise Theatre. See details for show dates and times in the performance information and response guidelines below.

**Wednesday 02/14 – MANDATORY:** Reading response #2 due.

**Extra credit opportunity:** *transfronteriza*. FREE

**7:30pm | at Wise Theatre**

*transfronteriza* is a solo evening-length piece that aims to honor women from the border. It was created with over 200 people from both sides of the U.S. – Mexico border in the sister cities of El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

Concept and Performance: Sandra Paola López R.

**Monday 02/19 – MANDATORY:** Performance response due in class. See guidelines below.

**Wednesday 03/07 –**

**MANDATORY:** Reading response #3 due.

**MANDATORY:** Midterm movement exam in class.

**Monday 03/12 –** Spring break **\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

**Wednesday 03/14 –** Spring break **\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

**Wednesday 03/21 –** Creative Group Project groups and guidelines handed out

**Wednesday 03/28 – MANDATORY:** Reading response #4 due.

**Wednesday 04/18 – MANDATORY:** Reading response #5 due.

**Monday 04/30 – MANDATORY:** Final Creative Group Project performances

### **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/copy\\_plag.php](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/copy_plag.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, 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).

**Technology Problems:**

Technology problems are NOT an excuse for work that is late or missing. Students need to complete assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with technology problems. Contact IT for technological problems and remember that Atlas lab in the UGLC or LACIT in the Liberal Arts building provide assistance with using Blackboard.

**University Writing Center:**

Located in the library room 227, UTEP's University Writing Center (UWC) offers free tutoring assistance in writing for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help you understand any writing assignment and will work with you to aid you in comprehending difficult material.

## Performance Information and Response Guidelines

**Due date:** Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

### Performance Dates:

*Iconic Pop*

February 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17  
at 7:30 PM

February 11  
at 2:30 PM

**Location:** Wise Family Theatre (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Fox Fine Arts, UTEP

### Tickets:

\$9 - \$14

Tickets can be purchased at the ticket center in the Union or at the theater's box office one hour before the show starts.

### **\*\*REMEMBER\*\***

**You need to keep your ticket stub to turn in to your instructor AND sign your name on the sign-up sheet provided by the department at the end of every show.**

### Guidelines:

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. If you don't know where to start, asking yourself the questions below AFTER you watch the show might be helpful. Please DO NOT take notes during the show as that distracts you from being fully present in the experience.

1. What stayed with you after the show ended?
2. Think about the movement, music, costumes and/or lighting... what drew you?
3. What colors, images, bodies grabbed your attention? (this can be either in a "positive" or "negative" way)
4. How did the experience make you feel?
5. What did you notice?
6. What kind of impact did the environment have on your experience?
7. How did you interpret what you saw?

For the assignment, I want to you respond in an unconventional and/or artistic way. Here are some ideas:

- A poem or script
- A drawing, collage, etc.
- A short dance/movement piece
- A song

- A short video
- A short story
- A website
- A cake or recipe

*NOTE: **DO NOT** take pictures and/or videotape during the performance to use in your response. This will give you an automatic 0 in the assignment.*

This assignment is worth **50 points** and it will be divided as follows:

**Effort and thoughtfulness in your work (20 points):** I don't grade you on how "good" the artistic quality of your response is, but I will grade the time and effort you put into it. For example: smudged stick figures drawn in pencil in a ripped notebook page does not show as much effort as a neat drawing or sketch done on a paper board.

**Clear connections and thorough exposition (25 points):** You will share your work with the rest of the class and will be expected to draw clear connections from your object/response to the dance concert. How do the medium, colors, texture, flavors, images you chose, reflect your experience in the show? **You will only have up to 2 minutes to share.** Practice!

**Handing ticket stub (5 points):** SAVE your ticket stub and turn it in to me with your name signed in the front.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT **WILL NOT BE GRADED** IF YOUR NAME IS NOT IN THE SIGN-UP SHEET THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES AT THE END OF EVERY SHOW.