

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University

Dance 2174A – Dance Basics – Term 1239

Fall 2023

Office hours: by appointment

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for students with no formal dance experience or background. Movement skills are developed as students acquire an understanding of basic body and movement technique through practise and analysis. Familiarity with ballet, character, modern, and social styles of dance along with associated terminology will be the focus of the course. Learning will include understanding of the components of rhythm and rhythm patterns combined with movement combinations, as well as understanding how a basic dance class runs.

***If the university mandates that courses must change to fully on-line, the OWL platform will be used for online classes, posting of all recorded sessions, course information, lecture notes, announcements, tests and submission of assignments, when applicable.

Course Content

1. Fundamental body placement and awareness
2. Basic locomotor movements and application
3. Dance terminology
4. Music and rhythms used in dance

Course Objectives

1. Develop awareness of body placement, control and strength
2. Develop and apply basic movement skills
3. Learn and practise ballet, character, modern/theatre dance techniques, basic social dance rhythms
4. Develop awareness of dance rhythms by studying musicality
5. Recognize and demonstrate movement from dance terminology

Course Format: Half course. 6 hours lecture/lab

This course will follow the format of a dance class augmented by lectures where technique and theory are developed simultaneously.

Attendance: This course involves the development of dance technique which makes attendance in class essential for success; attendance is mandatory. If unable to attend a class, students are **“expected to contact the instructor by email in advance or within 24 hours following an absence in order to set up a time to discuss next steps for attending or completing work”**. Unexplained absences will result in a reduction in your participation grade. Where physical participation might be limited due to an extended illness or injury, students are expected to observe the class when possible and complete supplemental assignments. An extended situation could also result in the student having to withdraw from the course. Punctuality is important for proper warm up and injury prevention. **Active participation is required.**

***Viewing of any recorded classes, if and when assigned, is also mandatory within the specified time frame.

Dress for Class

- tight-fitting clothing for observation of body and leg lines (no midriffs), ballet or closed-toe **non-marking** jazz dance shoes (small heel)
- hair tied back and out of the way of the face and neck; loose or distracting jewellery is not appropriate
- warm-up wear may be worn over regular dance clothes but will need to be removed when required

Evaluation

45% - Daily Classroom Work:

Technique (understanding & application of corrections) & improvement (daily & overall)

Demonstrating the ability to retain warm-up patterns and combinations

(Missed classes could affect classroom mark.)

*35% -Written tests

*20% -Movement assignments

Late Assignments - Assignments, written and practical submissions (in person or online), are due on the day specified.

Late assignments will be accepted but will lose one mark per day, including weekends.

*Required for successful completion of the course.

Course Timetable

Note – dates below are subject to change according to class progress

Weeks 1-4 (Sept. 8th – 25th): **Unit 1 - Basics**

Sept. 25th: Written & practical testing

Weeks 4-6 (Sept. 27th – October 11th): **Unit 2 - Social**

Truth & Reconciliation Day (Sept. 29th) - **no class**

Oct. 6th: Written test

Thanksgiving Day (Monday, Oct. 9th) – **no class**

Oct. 11th: Practical testing

Weeks 6-9 (Oct. 13th – Nov. 6th): **Unit 3 - Ballet**

Nov. 6th: Written & practical testing

Fall Reading Week (October 30th – November 5th) – **no classes**

Weeks 9-11 (Nov. 8th – 20th): **Unit 4 – Character**

Nov. 17th: Written test

Nov. 20th: Group presentations

Weeks 11-13 (Nov. 22nd– Dec. 8th) – **Unit 5 – Modern**

Wed. Dec. 8th: Presentations

(In the event of classes transitioning to fully on-line, presentations and tests will be submitted on-line, dates subject to change.)

Grading Scale: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%

Electronic Devices in Classroom/Tests: The in-class use of electronic devices in class (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) and tests (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

All cell phones are to be turned off or silenced during class.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%): Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%): In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, timely contact with the instructor (within the unit of study at the time) for appropriate accommodation and/or alternate dates for evaluation is necessary. If contact with the instructor is not made within the time frame, then the missed assignment/test will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Recording of Online Activities: Learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private purposes, but not to anyone else without prior permission from the instructor. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

*****Participants in this course are not permitted to record/copy the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.**

Online Etiquette: Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.