

**DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DANCE 2476B**

**INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE DANCE**

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Office hours; available half an hour before class. Please contact instructor for specific appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Development of movement skills and application of theoretical knowledge that will assist the student in understanding and appreciating various types and styles used in musical and theatre productions including ballet, modern/contemporary, tap, jazz, ballroom, Latin American dance. Half course: 6 hours lecture/laboratory.

**COURSE CONTENT**

1. Understanding and improvement in developing technical skills using
  - feet, legs, hands, arms, hips, shoulders, torso, head, total body, and isolations.
  - flexion, extension, rotation, strength, balance, control, coordination, and alignment.
  - movement dynamics, movement quality, rhythm, performance flow and control
2. Understanding how the use of shape and body line enhance the visual impact of motion.
3. Development of rhythmical skills and phrasing.
4. Exploration of rhythmical and musical elements in movement and musical accompaniment.
5. Analyzing, learning, practising and presenting movement combinations that include step - combinations from modern, tap, jazz, ballroom and Latin American dance styles. These are developed in the context and choreography of selected musical theatre shows.
6. Introduction of more complex movement skills in combination with turns, leaps, falls etc.
7. Evaluating and using the factors that contribute to defining style and enhancing performance skills.
8. An appreciation of the history of dance in musical theatre and the socio-economic climate in which selected shows exist.

**COURSE FORMAT**

This course will follow the traditional format of a technique course. Class sessions are broken down into four parts

- Floor warm-up-
- Standing warm-ups
- Floor progressions
- Specific movement patterns and /or movement exploration of selected musical theatre shows.

There is a vocal component in the course consisting of vocal warm up and singing with movement and dance.

There is a Tap Dance component on a regular basis.

### **EVALUATION / ATTENDANCE**

This course involves the development of personal technique, which makes attendance in class essential for success. **Attendance is mandatory.**

Where physical participation might be limited due to extended illness or injury, students are expected to observe the class and present a summary as assigned by the instructor. Consideration for extended absence from physical participation will require a note from a physician. This situation could result in the student having to withdraw from the course. Punctuality is important for proper warm up and injury prevention.

### 50% DAILY CLASSROOM WORK

Evaluation will be based on the ability to apply material presented in class.

### 10% WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES.

### 20% RESEARCH PAPER

Students will present a written researched assignment on a specific aspect of dance i.e. a musical theatre production, a choreographer or choreography with respect to the development of the subject within history and/or the socio-economic background of the time.

OR the student's own area of study linked specifically to dance, dance research or theatre.

Specific guidelines and expectations will be outlined by the instructor.

### 20% FINAL SOLO PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION

Specific type, style and content considerations that must be included in the construction and presentation of each student's solo will be set in consultation with the instructor.

Evaluation will include:

5% Prepared discussion summary and outline detailing the important areas of note i.e. specific technical and performance challenges included in style, music, period etc. Any changes made before the final presentation must be in consultation with the instructor.

15% Solo presentation showing:

- technical skills
- ability to perform and project the chosen type and style
- ability to relate the characterization and music of the chosen type and style showing musicality and rhythmical interest.
- ability to show attention to detail, polish and confidence in the performance.

The final Solo Presentation must be the student's own work developed out of the course content and learning or linked to the research gained from the written paper. It will not be acceptable to present choreography from outside sources previously performed at other events. Any specific

choreography shown from established choreographers studied in the course or viewed on stage, movies or internet should be acknowledged in the prepared outline.

## **DRESS FOR CLASS**

It is necessary to see the body and leg lines, therefore students must wear appropriate body forming clothing, tights, leotards, dance pants, tank top, body suit etc.

Close toe jazz shoes or bare feet if appropriate.

Tap or character shoes for the tap dance component. Hair must be tied back and away from the face and neck.

Jewellery is not appropriate and potentially dangerous to self and others

Warm-up clothing can be worn over dance clothes, but students must be prepared to remove them.

**i. Course Prerequisites: 2476B.**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have necessary prerequisite

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

**iii. 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 and after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC 210), 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 requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation.

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

Wherever 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.

**iv. Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, accommodation will be made by observation and/or written assignments. 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.

- v. **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 [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)
- vi. **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 click on the big screen “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.
- vii. **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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)
- viii. **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>
- ix. **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate 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 grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.
- x. **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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519 661-3568

- xi. Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examinations in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.