

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University
Dance 2174A – Dance Basics – Term 1169, Fall 2016

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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, modern, theatre dance, character 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.

The following applies to all courses. “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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 the necessary prerequisites.”

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, modern and theatre dance techniques, basic social dance rhythms, character dance steps
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. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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, contact the instructor by email in advance when possible. 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, when applicable. Consideration for extended absence from class will require a note from a physician. This 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.**

Evaluation

45% - Daily Classroom Work and Technical Improvement

Evaluation will be based on the ability to apply material presented in class, understand and apply corrections, show improvement over the term and retain warm-up patterns and combinations. Missed classes could affect classroom mark.

15% -Written unit tests

20% -Group movement assignments

20% -In-class Written Exam – covers materials presented and developed in class as well as from handouts

Course Timetable: Note – dates below are subject to change according to class progress

Weeks 1-2 (September 9th – 23rd): Study of basic body posture, placement, locomotor movements

Friday, September 23rd: written test – unit 1

Weeks 3-4 (September 26th – October 7th): Social/Rhythms unit

Friday, October 7th: written test – unit 2

Monday, October 10th: **Thanksgiving Day** – no class

Weeks 5-7 (October 12th – 26th): Character Dance unit & presentations

Friday, October 21st or Monday, October 24th: Written test – unit 3

Friday, October 28th: **Study Break** - no class

Weeks 8-10 (October 31st – November 16th): Ballet unit

Week 10 (Monday, November 14th): In-class written exam

Week 11 (November 18th – 25th): Modern/Theatre Dance Elements unit

Weeks 12 & 13 (November 28th – December 7th): Group work & presentations

Dress for Class (Women and Men)

-tight-fitting clothing for observation of body and leg lines, ballet or closed-toe jazz dance shoes

-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

Late Assignments

Assignments, both written and practical, are due at the beginning of class on the day specified.

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

Scholastic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following website:

"http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf".

Accommodations for Medical Illness

The university has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness stating that *"in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office."* The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness may be found at

"https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html".

Mental Health

"Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

"<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>" for a complete list of options about how to obtain help."

Electronic Devices - No electronic devices are allowed in class during quizzes, tests and examinations.