

**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 that are used in musical and theatre productions including modern, tap, jazz, ballroom, Latin American dance.  
Half course: 6 hours lecture/laboratory.

*NOTE: This course requires a pre-requisite: 1.0 credit from 2275a/b, 2276/a/b, 2375a/b or acceptable prior learning which will need permission from the Faculty in order to register.*

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

## **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.

## DRESS FOR CLASS

1. 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.
2. Close toe jazz shoes and tap or character shoes
3. Hair must be tied back and away from the face and neck.
4. Jewellery is not appropriate and potentially dangerous to self and others
5. Warm-up clothing can be worn over dance clothes but students must be prepared to remove them.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments both written and practical are due in class on the day specified. Late assignments will lose 1 mark per day including weekends.

## PLAGIARISM

“Plagiarism” Students must write their essays/ assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. (See Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Similarly the final Solo Presentation must be the students' 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.

### *Accommodation for Medical Illness*

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at <http://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

The University has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeal/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeal/accommodation_medical.pdf), states 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...”(In Music, this means the Associate Dean, Undergraduate).

In addition as indicated in the policy, **instructors must state how they will be dealing with accommodation for medical illness of work less than 10% of the total course grade, and whether or not medical documentation for such accommodation will be required.**

If documentation is required for either medical or non medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. Course instructors who wish to change the evaluation procedure shown in the course outline must receive prior approval to do so from the Dean of the Faculty concerned.

### *Statement on Mental Health*

The statement “Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western [http://www.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

