

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University
Dance 2174A – Dance Basics – Term 1219, Fall 2021

Dale Yoshida

Alumni Hall, Room 17

Office hours: by appointment

dyoshida@uwo.ca

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. 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, 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, 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
- 3-ply face mask is required

Evaluation

35% - Daily Classroom Work:

Technique (understanding & application of corrections) & improvement (daily & overall)
Showing the ability to retain warm-up patterns and combinations.

Missed classes could affect classroom mark.

*45% -Written and/or practical unit tests

*20% -Movement assignments

Late Assignments - Assignments, both written and practical on-line submissions, 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 1-3 (Sept. 8th – 24th): **Unit 1 - Basics**

Sept. 24th: Written & practical tests

Weeks 4-5 (Sept. 27th – October 8th): **Unit 2 - Social**

Oct. 6th: Written and practical tests

Oct. 8th: Practical testing

Thanksgiving Day (Monday, Oct. 11th) – **no class**

Weeks 6-8 (Oct. 13th – 29th): **Unit 3 - Ballet**

Oct. 27th - 29th: Written & practical tests

Fall Reading Week (November 1st – November 7th) – **no classes**

Weeks 9-10 (Nov. 8th – 19th): **Unit 4 – Character**

Nov. 17th: Practical testing

Nov. 19th: Group presentations

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

Wed. Dec. 1st & Fri. Dec. 3rd: Practical testing

Mon. Dec. 6th & 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 Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) 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.

Electronic Devices in Exams: Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the tests/exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

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 UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) 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, 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. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

Academic Consideration for Missing Work: In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special considerations due to COVID-19

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified. In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

Contingency Plan: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely 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 remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of 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 honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- “Arrive” to class on time
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting
- Be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable