

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/contemporary, tap, jazz, ballroom, Latin American dance.

Half course: 6 hours lecture/laboratory.

NOTE: "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. The decision may not be appealed. You will received no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have necessary prerequisites".

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

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-ups

-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.

This may not be offered in 2021/22 due to Covid 19 restrictions.

-There is a Tap Dance component on a regular basis.

This may not be offered in 2021/22 due to Covid 19 restrictions.

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 or bare feet if appropriate. Tap or character shoes for the tap dance component.
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

Statement on Academic Offences

“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/universec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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.

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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

Academic Considerations 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 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>

Notes Specifically to Address Covid-19-related Issues for 2021-22 Only

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 the 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). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

Recording of Online Activities: Some of the remote 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 or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

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

iii) **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
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a

class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material

- 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

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, select the blue "raise hand" function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Kindly remember to select the "raise hand" function again to lower your hand, mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

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 offences, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.