

# **DANCE 4491A: INDEPENDENT STUDY: MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR SINGERS**

## **Fall 2021**

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Class times: Monday 11:00-12:30 in Alumni Hall, Room 17  
Friday 11:00-12:30 in Alumni Hall, Room 17 First class-Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A conceptual approach to the development of movement skills used in dance. Application of theoretical knowledge will assist the student in understanding and appreciating dance as an art form. (Half course: Three hours lecture/laboratory: Face-to-Face format)

Prerequisites: Enrolment by Special Permission

### COURSE CONTENT

1. Body placement and control (alignment, posture, strength, balance, centering mechanisms).
2. Body movement, axial (flexion, extension, hyper-extension, rotation).
3. Body movement, locomotor (vertical and horizontal planes).
4. Exploration of movement range; focus; dynamics; and qualities or release of energy (swinging, sustained, suspended, vibratory, percussive, collapse).
5. Rhythmical approaches to dance (meter, accent, tempo).
6. Exploration of spatial design (direction, level, focus) and shape.
7. Explanation of written materials concerning the technical and creative development of the dancer.

### NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to introduce and examine concepts associated with basic elements of dance techniques through directed and creative movement experiences. The course will include the analysis and application of the kinesiological, rhythmic, and aesthetic aspects of human movement through dance.

Dance is a physical activity that exists in time and space. Students can best discover and begin to understand the elements affecting movement when isolated and explained within an environment of movement. They learn through the process of developing movement skills that allow their bodies to become creative, expressive instruments.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

1. To become familiar with terms associated with the organization of dance, its form and structure.
2. To understand dance vocabulary and concepts, and how they apply to skill acquisition.
3. To make connections between dance and related areas (visual art, music, sports, drama, literature, science).
4. To become familiar with terms used in music that can define more accurately rhythmic aspects of movement (meter, accent, phrasing, rhythm pattern, beat, tempo).
5. To encourage individualized artistic expression through the acquisition of technical and performance skills.
6. To help establish a realistic self-image based on the individual's physical body and its potential range for movement.
7. To encourage greater movement potential by developing a willingness to explore new movement.
8. To develop an awareness of movement qualities and dynamics in movement and the differences between them.
9. To familiarize the students with the elements of time, space, motion and shape and demonstrate how they are used in relation to dance.
10. To develop an understanding of the creative process and establish an environment for creative activity.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Because of the nature of the course material, students are required to attend all classes. The acceptable exceptions will be an illness that legitimately prevents attendance, or a personal crisis. These events must be proved with documentation. On days when a student does not feel up to physical participation, they should attend class and they will be given an observation assignment.

### DRESS

Students should be prepared to work in bare feet, wear layers of soft cotton clothing such as leotards, footless tights, sweatpants, leg warmers, t shirts, etc., and a towel and cotton socks to be used when required.

## COURSE FORMAT

Theoretical components such as movement analysis, anatomical analysis, rhythmical analysis and performance aspects are taught in the context of the technical skills being learned or mastered by the students. On few occasions will the theory and technique be separated. It is impossible to be specific as to the day-to-day content or progress of each class. The backgrounds of the students, their ability to master the technical skills presented and the ability of the instructor to present the technical problems in a manner in which the students can understand and transfer into movement will always make every technique class slightly unique.

## SUGGESTED READINGS

Blom, Lynne-Anne and Tarin L. Chaplin. *The Moment of Movement*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988.

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. Princeton Book Company, 1987.

Minton, Sandra. *Dance, Mind, and Body*. Human Kinetics, 2003.

Pomer, Janice. *Dance Composition: An Interrelated Arts Approach*. Human Kinetics, 2009.

## VIEWING DANCE / EXPANDING MUSICAL & RHYTHMIC AWARENESS

It is recommended that students take advantage of attending live dance performances and watching video or films that feature dance. These outside activities will provide an opportunity for discussion about different dance techniques and approaches. Students will also recognize similar dance movements to those taught in class.

Students are encouraged to broaden the genres of music they listen to in order to challenge their comfort and expand their awareness of musical resources that can be used with dance.

## EVALUATION

### **50%: In-Class Work**

Students will be evaluated on learning, improvement, and performance of the movement material presented in class. This will include journal topics that are assigned in relation to specific skills, creative experiences, or performance development. The journal entries will be submitted each week (online).

### **20%: Movement Pattern Showing Variation in Dance Styles**

This assignment is designed to facilitate the development of an original movement pattern using distinct styles and movement qualities. Working in duet/trio/small groups, the final product will be presented in person.

### **30%: Solo Presentation / Final Solo Project**

This assignment is a final dance technique composition that the student will compose and present to demonstrate improvement in skill level and ability to apply performance skills. Each student will be given specific challenges to be included in the creation of the composition.

## COURSE TIMETABLE

### **Weeks of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Begin evaluation of students' technical abilities.
- Class work will focus on assessing and introducing material designed to improve technical knowledge, skill level, improvisational awareness, and individual artistic expression.

### **October 11<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day – No Class**

### **October 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Discuss and set Duet/Trio/Quartet groups and select movement material.

### **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Confirm dates for performance of Duet, Trio or Quartet Movement Patterns.

### **Fall Reading Week November 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> (No Classes)**

### **November 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

- Discuss and assign Final Solo Dance project.

### **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Present Duet, Trio or Quartet Movement Patterns.

### **November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Perform Final Solo Dance projects.

## Important Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites: Special Permission.** 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. 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.

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:** 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 of a student's Home Faculty. 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](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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

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.

iv) **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.

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:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://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 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.**

vii) **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](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, 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>

ix) **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.

## **Additional applicable statements**

i) This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”

ii) **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 examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

iii) **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.

iv) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).