

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

## **Fall 2023**

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### 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: In-Person 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 way that 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<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 9<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day – No Class**

### **October 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

### **Fall Reading Week October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 5<sup>th</sup> (No Classes)**

### **November 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Discuss and assign Final Solo Dance project.

### **November 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Present Duet, Trio or Quartet Movement Patterns.

### **December 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<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 & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, 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 their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

\*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)

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

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:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered 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 assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519 661-3568.

### **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/>).