

Music 9513: MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR SINGERS

Fall 2025

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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)

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Faculty of Music as well as any student who has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

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.

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

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.

COURSE TIMETABLE

Weeks of September 8th, 15th and 22nd

- 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.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30th (No Classes)

October 13th Thanksgiving Day (No Class)

October 20th and 24th

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

October 27th

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

Fall Reading Week November 3rd – 9th (No Classes)

November 10th and 14th

- Discuss and assign Final Solo Dance project.

November 17th and 21st

- Present Duet, Trio or Quartet Movement Patterns.

December 5th and 8th

- Perform Final Solo Dance projects.

Senate Mandated Graduate Course Outline NOTES:

i) **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, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

ii) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

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.

iii) **Enrollment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music as well as any student who has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

iv) **Health and Wellness:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

v) **Accessible Education Western:** Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

vi) **Written Work and the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is not permitted in the written work for this course. 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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

vii) **Accommodation on Medical or Compassionate Grounds:** Western recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, at times, be impaired by medical illness or exceptional circumstances. Instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment in determining how or if work missed in such cases will be accommodated. Whether medical documentation is required for work worth less than 10% of the final grade is at the discretion of the instructor (but, if required, this must be indicated on the course outline). If work missed because of medical or non-medical reasons is worth more than 10% of the final grade, documentation is required. Any documentation, when required, is processed through the Office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) and should be sent directly to this office, not to the instructor.

viii) **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Western accommodates students with disabilities, subject to not compromising the academic integrity of the course or program. Students seeking accommodation must contact Accessible Education (aew@uwo.ca), which provides recommendations based on disability documentation and other considerations. Reasonable academic accommodation is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and the instructor. All participants in the process must fulfil their respective obligations as set out in this Policy and the associated Procedures:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

ix) **Religious Accommodation:** When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Further information can be found here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

x) **Scholastic Offences:** The University has a Scholastic Discipline policy that regulates procedures in the event that a graduate student is suspected of a scholastic offence, most commonly plagiarism or cheating, but also violations of research ethics. It is important to note that while the course instructor will likely investigate the offence, possibly meeting with the student to clarify the issue, it is the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) who, in consultation with the instructor, assesses penalties for scholastic offences in graduate courses. The Scholastic Discipline policy for graduate students may be found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf
The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has developed a mandatory Academic Integrity Module that is designed to help students understand and abide by principles of academic integrity. Further information about this module can be found at:
https://grad.uwo.ca/life_community/study/index.html
New doctoral students in Music are required to complete the TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Course on Research Ethics) in their first term. Instructors are encouraged to complete CORE-2022 as well. It is free to access, and the modules can be completed over multiple sessions.

xi) **Grading Guidelines for Graduate Courses:** A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=00-59%