

DCE113-02: Beginning Ballet
Fall 2009
MW 12:30-1:45pm HHP 152

INSTRUCTOR: Anne Morris
OFFICE: 220G
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
EMAIL: almorris@uncg.edu

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None. May be repeated for credit.
Credits: 1

Course description: Development of technical skills in ballet, including safe and efficient alignment and clear articulation of movement vocabulary.

Important dates:

Midterm conferences: will be announced in class
Last Day to Drop without Academic Penalty: October 16
Final exam: Friday, December 11 12-3pm. We WILL be meeting during this time.

Student Learning Goals

Students in this course will learn to:

1. Move contra-laterally during locomotion (left/right halves in opposition).
2. Grasp and retain sequences of simple exercises and combinations.
3. Breathe appropriately and as needed while moving.
4. Anticipate the beat when required.
5. Maintain energy throughout each combination and a full class.
6. Demonstrate commitment/responsibility as appropriate in and out of class.
7. Demonstrate awareness and attention to studio/classroom procedures.
8. Demonstrate dynamic alignment —as appropriate to exercises/combinations in the class and involving awareness of center.
9. Move on the beat when required.
10. Show appropriate use of the legs as called for in an exercise/combination.
11. Show appropriate use of the feet as called for in an exercise/combination.
12. Show command of skills involving initiation of movement.
13. Show command of skills involving weight shift.
14. Avoid extraneous tension in performing simple movements such as walks, skips, etc.
15. Fulfill the time/counts given for each part of the movement.
16. Demonstrate attributes of/qualities in movement as specified.
17. Demonstrate clarity of bodyline in simple movement combinations.
18. Demonstrate clarity of spatial direction in simple movement combinations.
19. Perform set movement with confidence/full engagement.
20. Respond spontaneously to improvisational prompts, with confidence/full engagement

and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within a given technique.

Teaching Strategies

To enable student achievement of the learning goals, I will:

1. Demonstrate, explain, analyze, and lead explorations of movement exercises and combinations designed specifically to develop the skills required for achievement of the learning goals listed above.
2. Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving learning goals 1-20.*
3. Provide a written assessment of your achievement on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet at mid-term and again near the end of the semester.
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts.
5. Present ballet terminology with clarity.
6. Provide opportunities for you to assess your own progress toward achievement of the learning goals.

*Not every student will receive individual feedback during each class, but all students will receive individual feedback regularly throughout the course of the semester.

Evaluation Methods and Guidelines for Assignments

To succeed in this class, you will need to:

1. Attend to movement material presented, as well as to explanations and analyses of its specific components.
2. Listen carefully to and apply all corrections and recommendations for improvement that I provide to any student in class.
3. Learn the movement material with increasing speed and attention to detail as the semester progresses through observation, exploration, and practice.
4. Perform the movement material as accurately and fully as possible each time you are called upon to do so.
5. Take an active role in creating a positive learning environment for everyone in the class.

I will assess your progress toward achievement of the learning goals through:

1. Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class
2. Written mid-term and final evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet*
3. Ballet quizzes: terminology and concepts (total of 10% of your grade, separate from attendance considerations.)

*Please check the UNCG Dance Department Website (www.uncg.edu/dce) under Syllabi to view the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet, definitions of skills, and the statement about alignment.

Your achievement in mastering the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course, and as documented on the Dance Technique Feedback for 111/113 Sheet, as well as my perception of your personal progress throughout the semester, will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade. Your quiz grades will make up 10% of your total grade, and your attendance record will be an additional factor in calculating your final letter grade.

Grading Scale

93-100 A 73-76 C

90-92 A- 70-72 C-

87-89 B+ 67-69 D+

83-86 B 63-66 D

80-82 B- 60-62 D-

77-79 C+ Below 60 F

Attendance policy:

You are allowed TWO absences (**excused or unexcused**), after which your grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade (for example an A becomes an A- etc.) Each additional absence will lower your grade by another 1/3.

Students are expected to be on time, dressed and ready for class, and to stay for the duration of the class. Two late arrivals or early departures will equal one absence. Entering the studio five minutes after class has begun constitutes a late arrival. Students who arrive 10 minutes after class has begun should sit out and watch. You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy.

When injured or ill, but not contagious, you may sit, watch a class, and record observations to hand in at the end of the class period and still be counted present. **ONLY TWO OBSERVATION DAYS ARE ALLOWED. Each observation over the allotted one will equal an absence.** Speak with the instructor first for guidance in your observation and note taking.

The dance department requires an 80% participation rate in technique classes meeting twice per week in order to receive credit. Observation does not count towards this 80%. Students must physically participate in 22 classes in order to pass this course; not participating in 6 or more classes = no credit.

Serious illnesses and injuries will be handled on an individual basis. In such cases, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in order to make appropriate arrangements.

If you have more than two absences during a semester, you may make up ONE absence by attending another 112 section. You must receive permission from the instructor of the other class before attending and bring back a note signed by that instructor confirming your attendance in their class. If you choose to make up a class, you must do so within **two weeks of the absence. Your option for making up a class is:

113-01 BJ Sullivan T/Th 11-12:15

Class Conduct

Please be respectful of your fellow classmates, the instructor, and our art by being attentive and following studio etiquette at all times during class (if there are any questions as to the components of studio etiquette, please see me privately). I encourage you to ask relevant questions during class, but I expect a high level of focus, and will not tolerate excessive chatting, socializing, or other distracting behavior. Class time needs to be reserved for refining and improving our craft and our bodies as artistic instruments. For your own safety and enjoyment of this class, no eating or gum chewing is allowed in the studio. (You are welcome to bring a non-glass water bottle.) Please turn off all cellular phones and other electronic devices during class. Should there be a reason you need to have your cell phone available to you during class, please let me know before we begin.

Class Attire

To enhance your understanding of the functional and aesthetic elements of ballet technique, and to ensure safety for you and everyone in the class, please wear stretchy, form-fitting clothing. Baggy t-shirts or pants, jeans, short shorts, and hats are not acceptable. Long hair

must be secured away from your face and neck. Please remove ALL loose jewelry before class.

All students are required to wear soft ballet shoes with elastic bands attached to help the canvas or leather fit snugly on your arch. Ballet shoes may be purchased at dancewear stores and dance supply websites. Some suggestions:

Carolina Dancewear
1627 New Garden Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-856-9983 (call before you go to be sure they have your size.)

www.discountdancesupply.com

www.dancedistributors.com

Please see me if you have concerns regarding any of the guidelines for attire. Everyone must have ballet shoes by Monday, August 31.

Expectations of you as a Student

In addition to maintaining the above outlined expectations, I also ask you:

1. To actively participate in class, work on corrections, practice and apply concepts and theories in combinations. Always strive to reach new capacities and discoveries!
2. To ask questions if anything is unclear.
3. To keep an open mind toward working the body in a new way while drawing upon previous knowledge of and experiences in dance.

Expectations of me as your Instructor

1. To also maintain the above guidelines while sharing with you my knowledge and experiences of ballet as clearly as possible.
2. To be prepared for class and to provide you with clear and respectful feedback in the form of verbal and manual corrections.
3. To be available for you to approach me with any questions or concerns you might have regarding any aspects of this course, my teaching, or your progress.