

DCE 114-02: Advanced Beginning Ballet

MW 11-12:15pm, HHP 152

Instructor: Justin Tornow

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QUICK TIPS ON BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS...

* **Show up to learn:**

- Attendance is crucial in studio technique classes, but your body in the space is not enough—being fully present and engaged in the class is necessary for growth and improvement. The effective study of dance requires a personal, willing commitment from each participant.
- Keep an open mind toward the material presented in class—it may sometimes fall outside of your comfort zone or realm of experience. Embrace that and choose the path towards a broader exposure to different styles and techniques in dance.

* **Always do your best:**

Participate fully at all times. Take responsibility for your own learning—YOU are the main source of your growth and success in the studio. In order to achieve the goals of this course, you must be fully engaged in the classroom activities and dedicated to your own improvement as a dancer. But remember, don't be too hard on yourself; the actual *process* of learning is more important in this class than trying to attain perfection.

* **Follow proper studio etiquette:**

Be on time, ready to dance. Turn off your cell phone. Do not bring gum or food into the studio. It is a good idea to bring a water bottle, but plastic only-- no glass containers of any kind!

* **Show respect to the learning environment:**

Be an active part of the classroom. Respect the needs and safety of yourself and your peers by being aware of the space you're occupying at all times, deferring to the needs of the class, and keeping a positive attitude.

Follow the agreed-upon class etiquette and conduct policies determined in the first week of class.

Recognize that you learn from listening, watching and asking as well as from doing, so be attentive to the teacher and to your fellow classmates... and be curious!

EVALUATION METHODS

In addition to the "Quick Tips" listed above, you will need to achieve the following to succeed in this class:

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 in class.
3. Learn the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice.
4. Execute the movement material as accurately as possible and with full body/mental engagement.
5. Contribute to the learning environment by creating/leading a combination in class and performing a short work demonstrating skills learned throughout the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. 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.
2. The dance department requires an **80% participation rate** in technique classes meeting twice per week in order to receive credit. 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.** Speak with the instructor first for guidance in your observation and note taking. If you miss more than six classes, you will be unable to pass and may be dropped from the course.
3. Students are expected to be on time, dressed and ready for class, and to actively participate 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 or more after class has begun should sit out and watch, which constitutes as an observation. (You are responsible for telling the instructor after class to change attendance from absent to tardy if you are 5 minutes late and join class.)
4. 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.
5. Making Up Class: If you exceed the two-absence limit, you may make up 1 CLASS by attending another 100 level section of Ballet (be sure to receive permission from the instructor at least 24 hours before attending.) Any make-up class needs to be completed BEFORE the last week of classes. Please bring me a form listing the class, day and time you attended as a make-up, signed by the instructor.

DCE 114-01: Tricia Zweier, TR 12:30-1:45
DCE 113-01: BJ Sullivan, TR, 11-12:15
DCE 113-02: Anne Morris, MW, 12:30-1:45

CLASS ATTIRE

Ballet technique is rooted in proper articulation of very specifically physicalized movement. **Clothing** that limits the visibility of your movement is not beneficial for you as a learner or for me, as your teacher.

Each student should come prepared with clothing that fits closely and doesn't distract from observing clean body lines. Please avoid short shorts, long, baggy pants and baggy T-shirts or sweatshirts. **Hair** must be pulled back off of the face and neck and secured. Every student must wear **ballet shoes**. If you do not have ballet shoes you can be fitted for and purchase them at **Carolina Dancewear** 1627 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410, (336) 856-9983. *Everyone must have ballet shoes by Wednesday, September 2nd.*

GRADING

What factors determine your grade?

- Your achievement of the listed learning goals and an understanding of Definition of Skills for 114, attached. This grade assesses your daily work in class, which is a demonstration of your commitment to growth and improvement. (90%)
- Your grades on the class assignments (vocab quizzes 5%, and combo teaching 5%. Total 10%.)
- Your attendance record (see attendance policy, factored in after grade is calculated.)

The final grade will reflect your level of progress toward the learning goals, attendance, and your overall performance in the course as per the below grading scale:

93-100 (A)	90-92 (A-)	87-89 (B+)	83-86 (B)	80-82 (B-)	77-79 (C+)	73-76 (C)
70-72 (C-)	67-69 (D+)	63-66 (D)	60-62 (D-)	Below 60 (F)		

Final Exam: Monday, December 14th: 8am-11am

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS *as listed on the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet

On completion of this course, you 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 mentioned above.
2. Present ballet terminology with clarity.
3. Observe your daily work in class and make recommendations for continued development.
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts. Beyond the scheduled midterm and final conference times scheduled, please feel open to make additional appointments at any point in the semester to discuss your progress with me.
5. Video class, allowing opportunities for you to observe yourself and others from a different perspective.

** Dance Technique Feedback Sheet: DTFS are a tool for assessment of and communication about your progress in technique class. As a template, this sheet allows us to focus in on the areas that each student can/should center more of their attention on while furthering their efforts in the class as a whole. The DTFS and supplemental material can be found on Blackboard → *Course Documents*.