

DCE 116: Beginning Jazz Technique  
M/W 3:30-4:45  
HHP 152

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**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS\***

Upon completion of this course you will be able 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.

\*These goals are as listed on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet. These guidelines allow me to focus on what students can and should be striving for in this class throughout the semester as is appropriate to this level of technique. The DTFS can be found on the UNCG Dance Department website. You can also find supplemental materials (such as the definition of alignment, etc) on this website.

**EVALUATION METHODS**

**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 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.

### **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 movement vocabulary with clarity.
3. Observe your daily work in class and make recommendations for continued development. Although you will not receive individual feedback in each class, you will receive individual feedback regularly throughout the semester.
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts. This will occur concerning individual technical growth using the Dance Technique Feedback Sheet at mid-term and again near the end of the semester. Students may make additional appointments if they feel the desire to do so.
5. Video class, allowing opportunities for you to observe yourself and others from a different perspective.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

1. Attendance is expected in every class. You are allowed TWO absences, regardless of the reason, before your grade is affected. NOTE: there are NO excused absences.
2. After two absences your final grade will be dropped by 1/3 of a letter for each subsequent absence. (I.E. an A would become an A- if you miss three classes.)
3. The dance department requires an 80% attendance rate in order to pass this class. If you miss more than six classes you will be dropped and will not receive credit.
4. A tardy arrival or early departure is equal to ½ absence. Two of these will add to one

absence. For safety reasons, if you are more than 10 minutes late to class you will be required to sit out and take notes. If you are less than 10 minutes tardy then you are expected to quietly join at the back of the class. Timely arrival is critical to safe participation, technical development and professionalism. **If you are late, you are responsible for telling the instructor to change the absence to a tardy.**

5. You are allowed ONE make-up class. If you have already missed the two allowed absences and you accrue another, then you are allowed to make-up that absence by visiting another class at the appropriate level. You must contact the instructor prior to taking the class to make sure you have permission to do so. You must also bring written proof from the instructor of your attendance in the make-up class. You have TWO WEEKS from the day of your third absence to make up the class. DO NOT WAIT. Classes available to you are as follows:

DCE 111-02: Tricia Zweier, TR 12:30-1:45 (Beginning Contemporary)

DCE 111-01: Amanda Diorio, MW 2-3:15 (Beginning Contemporary)

DCE 113-01: BJ Sullivan, TR 11-12:15 (Beginning Ballet)

DCE 113-02: Anne Morris, MW 12:30-1:45 (Beginning Ballet)

\*If there is another class you are interested in taking as a make up you must approve it with your instructor first.

## **GRADING**

Your achievement in mastering the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course, and as documented on the dance technique feedback sheet, will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade (90%). Your attendance record will be an additional factor in calculating your final letter grade (10%).

In calculating the achievement component of the final grade, your mastery of the learning goals will be assessed to produce a final score that is aligned with grades as follows:

97-100	A+
93-96	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

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to all the above mentioned requirements, you will need to be prepared for class, each and every day. This means:

**Appropriate attire:** No jeans, skirts, hats, chunky or dangly jewelry or extra-baggy clothing. We will be doing movement on the floor so, for your bodily protection, you are strongly encouraged to wear attire that covers your knees. You are expected to dance in jazz shoes or barefoot (toe pads are allowed, socks are NOT). Please pull back long hair. If possible secure eye-glasses or wear contacts.

**Appropriate 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.

**Appropriate behavior:** Be aware of your peers during class; respect the needs and safety of all by maintaining your spacing when dancing within groups, and by staying out of the way when you are not dancing. When it is not your turn to dance, respect the others by remaining QUIETLY attentive. Ask questions when you have them. You learn from listening, watching and asking as well as from doing, so be attentive to the teacher and your fellow classmates. Ask questions at appropriate times and listen to the questions of others and subsequent answers. Feedback to others may also be useful to you even if not directed at you.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Midterm conferences: October 5th and 7th as needed

Last day to drop classes: October 16th

Final: December 14th, 12:00-3:00 pm

Welcome to class; I look forward to dancing with you!