

FALL 2009

DCE 314 HIGH INTERMEDIATE BALLET TECHNIQUE

1 CREDIT HOUR

T/TH 2-3:15 (STUDIO 152)

Final Exam Friday, December 11, 3:30-6:30pm.

INSTRUCTOR: B.J. SULLIVAN

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OFFICE HOURS: SCHEDULE POSTED ON OFFICE DOOR - APPOINTMENTS MADE BY EMAIL ONLY.

PREREQUISITES: A grade of B or higher in two semesters of DCE 214/314 or Departmental permission. This course may be repeated for credit.

FOR WHOM PLANNED: Ballet course for dance majors.

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

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

To the degree appropriate to the high intermediate/ advanced level of ballet training, students in this course will learn to:

1. Demonstrate dynamic alignment (see attached alignment statement).
2. Prompt grasp of class exercises and combinations.
3. Refined sense of the body in relation to itself and to the space.
4. Refined sense of initiation and articulation of movement.
5. Demonstrate rhythmic accuracy and qualitative understanding of musical nuances by moving on the beat and anticipating it when required.
6. Deep exploration of the qualitative aspects of movement sequences, without extraneous tension.
7. Dynamic phrasing of movement sequences to enhance the variations within movement phrases.
8. Projection of energy while dancing, performing with confidence/full engagement.
9. Exploration of the range and depth of motion in space and through space, going beyond one's comfort zone.
10. Performance creativity through spontaneous solutions to improvisational prompts and/or demonstrate creative spontaneity within a given technique.
11. Commitment, engagement, and responsibility to course assignments and activities (movement based, written, or as defined by the instructor).
12. Demonstrate development of professional skills, independent work practices within the class.

Learning goals 1-10 mark distinct *areas of skill* in dance technique. Excellence in dance artistry is a matter of developing a high degree of skill in each area and intergrading these skills during the performance of movement.

Learning goals 11 and 12 describe *efforts/attitudes* necessary for progress toward excellence in dance and indicate specific *behaviors* that demonstrate them.

Attendance

Grades and Mastery of Material can improve only with regular attendance and active participation. You are allowed TWO ABSENCES. Any extra absence will lower your final grade 1/3 of a letter grade. You are not allowed to make up but ONE extra absence in another ballet technique class. Long-term injuries have to be discussed with the instructor and be treated accordingly.

Participation and Lateness

If you arrive more than ten minutes late, please sit down and watch. Arriving more than ten minutes late three times will count as an absence and will take your grade down 1/3 of a letter. When injured or ill (but not contagious), you may still be counted as present if you attend class and follow instructions given by teacher. The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate. Students must dance in 24 out of the 30 meetings in classes that meet twice a week, and in 36 out of the 45 meetings in classes that meet three times a week to get credit for the course. Sitting and watching a class does not count as participation. Students who do not meet the participation requirement for any reason will need to repeat the course.

Also, with an injury, you will need to present to instructor in writing a doctor's or therapist's note on injury and a detailed outline of the combinations in this course that you will be able to participate in some way. If combinations need to be altered or modified, how these actions will be done and what additional work or therapy you are engaging in outside of class to treat your injury. This needs to be given to instructor as soon as possible – not a week after injury.

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). Dance is a discipline to be practiced in and out of class. I encourage you to ask relevant questions during class, but expect a high level of focus. 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. Please turn off or silence all cellular phones and other electronic devices. Should there be a reason you need to have your cell phone out during class, please let me know before we begin.

When it is not your turn to dance, respect the others by remaining QUIETLY attentive. You learn as much from listening, watching and asking as you do from doing. Take the opportunity to review for sequence or areas you may be stumbling through in the combination.

Attire

Every dance environment has different values and rules surrounding attire in class. For the purposes of enhancing your own understanding of living alignment please wear form-

fitting clothing. As the instructor, I will be able to help you most if I am able to see the landscape of your structure. This does not mean I require you to wear leotard and tights, however baggy t-shirts and pants are not acceptable. For the safety of you and your peers, please remove all jewelry before class. Bring a water bottle with you as well.

For footwear, please wear ballet shoes with elastics that are secured to help the canvas or leather fit snugly on your arch. Dancing in socks is not the same as dancing in ballet shoes. If you have concerns regarding any of the attire guidelines please see me in private. Ballet shoes should be purchased within first two weeks of the semester or points will be taken off and your final grade will be affected.

Expectations of you as a Student

In addition to maintaining the above outlined expectations, I also request the following:

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 draw upon previous knowledge of and experiences in dance.

During midterms, we will have a whole class conference. For this, you will need to fill out a technique feedback sheet, evaluating yourself. This is an opportunity for you to assess yourself, to think about your strengths and weaknesses. Your assessment of yourself will not affect my view of you nor your midterm or final grade. Even though we will have a group conference at midterm you are encouraged at any time during the semester to meet with me for individual feedback.