

FALL 2009
DCE 412
ADVANCED LEVEL TECHNIQUE
1 CREDIT HOURS
MW 9:30-10:45 IN 322
Final Exam Wednesday, December 16, 8-11am.

INSTRUCTOR: B.J. SULLIVAN
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OFFICE HOURS: appointment by email only.

PREREQUISITES: A grade of B or higher in two semesters of DCE 312, or departmental permission. This course may be repeated for credit.

FOR WHOM PLANNED: Required course for dance majors.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Refinement of technical skills in modern dance at the advanced level, including complex movement capabilities, rhythmic structures, and spatial relationships, with emphasis on aesthetic and expressive qualities that lead to performance.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

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

1. Demonstrate dynamic alignment (see UNCG Dance Website for more information).
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, and responsible preparation before and after 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.

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 learning goals 1-10;
2. Observe your daily work in class and (a) orally assess your achievement of learning goals 1-12, and (b) make recommendations for improvement in achieving goals 1-12*;
3. Provide a written assessment on the Dance Technique Feedback sheet of your achievement at mid-term;
4. Provide opportunities for individual appointments in which we may discuss your learning efforts;
5. Provide opportunities for you to assess your own and others' progress toward the actual 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:

The fundamental and ongoing assignments in this class are:

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. Perform the movement material as accurately as possible each time you are called upon to do so;
5. Reflect in writing as assigned on your progress toward and actual achievement of the learning outcomes;
6. Observe other dancers and assess their performance as assigned.

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

1. Daily oral feedback to you and/or others on work done in class;
2. Written mid-term evaluations of your achievement using the Dance Technique Feedback sheet;

3. Oral and/or written feedback of the accuracies and inaccuracies I perceive in your self-assessments.

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.

Grading Scale

Score

Grade

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

The relationship between attendance and your final grade is as follows: 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each absence incurred over the maximum absences allowed for this class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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 modern technique class. Long-term injuries have to be discussed with the instructor and be treated accordingly.

OBSERVATION, PARTICIPATION, AND LATENESS POLICY:

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.

Any injuries or illness should be emailed to instructor before the class starts. When injured or ill (but not contagious), you may still be counted as present if you attend class and execute instructions from the teacher on how to participate. You may not lay down and sleep. 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.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Warm-up exercises and combinations designed to enable your achievement specifically of learning goals 1-4 remain fairly consistent over the course of the semester. Other exercises and combinations will develop over the course of the semester in length, speed, and in rhythmic and qualitative complexity so as to (a) enable the achievement specifically of learning goals 5-12 and (b) provide opportunity to practice the integration of skills inherent to the achievement of learning goals 1-10.

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.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty; trust; fairness; respect; and responsibility. Supporting and affirming these values is essential to promoting and maintaining a high level of academic integrity.¹ Each member of the academic community must stand accountable for his or her actions. As a result, a community develops in which students learn the responsibilities of citizenship and how to contribute honorably to their professions.

If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. Members of the UNCG community are expected to foster in their own work the spirit of academic honesty and not to tolerate its abuse by others.

First responsibility for academic integrity lies with individual students and faculty members of this community. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all other students, faculty and, ultimately, the university.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Always bring a long sleeve shirt to class for floor work. Wear dance pants that fully cover the knee, the length should fall to middle shin region but should not be too long where you could slip on your heel. No jewelry period.

Bring your own bottle of water to class, no glass. You are not allowed to leave class for water. You may leave class to use the bathroom.

Always have band-aids, foot tape, scissors, and an antibiotic pain relieve cream for cuts and floor burns available.

KNEEPADS WILL BE NEEDED IN THIS CLASS !

LET'S DANCE ...