

Dance 114 Elementary Ballet
-Instructor Sandra Stanton-
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Office hours: on request
T,TH 9-10:15 Blood Fitness and Dance Center

Course Description:

The study of classical ballet, emphasizing technical execution, style, and performance quality, in addition to elementary level technical mastery of the ballet vocabulary. Our semester of work adheres to the ABT National Training Curriculum's standards, combining French, Russian and Italian technical methods. At this level students are expected to have a thorough understanding of French terminology and steps. A clear demonstration of full combinations, with the instructor only using vocal cues, at an elementary level is expected. Students are required to set goals, self critique, and chart the progress of these goals throughout the semester.

In addition to two times a week technique class students can expect: basic anatomy, to understand basic technical differences between classical styles, analysis of technique through peer observation and critique, basic music training for dancers and basic dancer health information. Also, understanding build-up and breakdown of peak steps, to create and teach combinations around a peak step, including musical cues, while fielding questions from peers.

Course Requirements:

- Consistent attendance with proper attire.
- Above and beyond work ethic approach: including:
arriving early fully prepared for class and warm up, working on individual corrections without prompting in the center, recording observations, and insights in journal (as outlined below), and an openness toward instructor's corrections.
- Recognizing goals, analyzing and recording progress in a journal.
- Concentrated effort and demonstrated improvement on all aspects of technique.
- Out-of-class assignments as required. (listed below)
- Full and complete daily journal entries outlining:
 - class and individual corrections from each class
 - outstanding goals, progress of goals and recording of any new goals throughout the semester
 - personal reflections
 - new vocabulary
- Thorough knowledge of:
 - Ballet fundamentals and elementary level vocabulary
 - ABT 10 principles
 - Stretching techniques
 - Spatial facings and terminology
 - additional info listed in course description (listed above)
 - Any and all other information as provided in the studio work and can be found on the abt.org. website.
- All reading or video materials will be provided by the instructor.

Out-of-Class assignments:

1. Mandatory attendance at all *department events (listed below)
2. Submit 3-page review of ballet pieces in the Fall Dance Concert focused on:
 - identifying elements of classwork (e.g. facings, steps, technical elements etc.)
 - observations and critique about piece structure, costumes and music
 - general critique of other dance compositions in the concert

*Department Events (required attendance)

-Fall Dance Concert, Nov 1, 2, 7 p.m. Wellin Hall, Schambach Center, Free admission

Grading:

Cumulative; determined by fulfillment of requirements.

- Participation/Effort* - 40%
- Assimilation of Material - 20%
- Final Exam - 15%
- In-Class Exam (1) - 10%
- Essay- 5%
- Journal completion- 10% (-1 point for each missing daily entry)

*Note:

Each unexcused absence will result in a 3-point deduction from the final grade. A student feeling ill or facing minor injury is required to observe class, take notes, and hand those notes immediately to the instructor after class. A note from either a doctor or a coach, in the case of a sports scheduling conflict is considered an excused absence.

*Students who enter the studio once class has started are expected to observe. A 1-point deduction will result for each tardy.

*Student is allowed one mental health day during the semester.

Final Exam:

The final exam will consist of a written portion including multiple choice, short answer, matching terms, etc. The students must also demonstrate a combination and be able to write their own combination including musical cues. Thorough review will be conducted prior to all exams.

In-Class Exam:

Students will be given a written in-class exam part way through the semester. The exam will touch on the semester's studio classwork and will be based on the hand outs. No demonstration.

Dancer's Journal:

Please bring your journals to each and every class. All handouts must be kept in the journal. This journal will serve as the only study guide source. It is up to the student to be thorough in this journal.

Daily Class Dress Code:

(based on traditional classical ballet gender roles of female and male)

Women:

- Pink or black ballet tights, any style/color leotard (no unitards or leggings please), ballet skirts are acceptable.
- Pink canvas or leather soft ballet shoes.
- Tight fitting ballet warm ups (leg warmers, wrap sweaters. etc.) are acceptable in cold weather but must come off when sufficiently warmed up.
- Hair must be worn securely up and off the neck. (bun, french twist etc., ponytails and/or messy buns are not acceptable.)

Men:

- Black footed ballet tights with matching socks and ballet shoes, dance belt and white fitted t-shirt. Warm ups are acceptable in colder months.

Course expectations (please initial and hand in to instructor):

Mandatory attendance____

Adhere to the dress code____

Maintain a professional, positive and supportive attitude____

Early arrival and help set up ballet barres____

Student is responsible for communicating (emailing or appointment) with instructor regarding illness, injury, all absences, progress, request for extra assistance____

Student is responsible for transferring all verbal classroom information into journal____

Student is responsible for maintaining journal and having it on hand in every class____

Journals will be collected once during the semester the discretion of the instructor____

Student understands that their main source of study will be their own journal____

Student is responsible for all handouts____

Student understands that the 3-page essay is based on the pieces in the Spring dance concert and that physically attending the concert is mandatory____

Please sign in with the instructor at the concert. 2.5/5 essay points will be deducted if student fails to sign in in person ____

Email essay to instructor prior to or on above deadline, grades and comments will be sent back via email____

If student is on an athletic team, student must alert instructor of any sporting event conflicts and provide meet/game schedule outlining conflicts____

Student must email instructor prior to any absense____

An absence is only considered 'excused' if student provides health center appointment verification____

Student understands that arriving after class has started will require them to observe, take and hand in notes____

Student understands that they will receive a 1-point deduction for every late class arrival____

Student understands they can miss one class throughout the semester with no penalties____

Student understands that help is available after every class and that it is your responsibility to seek extra help whenever needed____

Student will alert instructor of any pre-existing conditions/injury prior to the start of the semester____

If student has an issue with the instructor, it is best to nip it in the bud asap, student is responsible for bringing any issues to light____

Student signature: _____

Preferred pronoun: _____

- When in doubt, communicate!
- When in doubt, come to class! (even if you have the sniffles or are experiencing other mild upsets)
- When in doubt, ask for extra help. I am here to help you do and be your very best.

Please look this over and bring any and all questions to our first week of classes together- print this complete syllabus, and keep it in your journal. Please make an extra copy of this last page, to be initialed and handed in.

Thank you,
Sandra Stanton

*Senior Lecturer
Dance and Movement Studies
Hamilton College*