

Beginning Modern Dance Technique Course Syllabus

Instructor: Kathleen Wessel

Course: PE_OX 200R-01J

Course Schedule: TT 1:45-2:55 RH 200, Williams Hall

Office: Gym Office Suite

Office Hours: By appointment only

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a beginning level technique class and is designed to introduce students to modern dance terminology, technique and performance. This course will concentrate on body alignment, technical development, performance quality, improvisation and proper execution of modern exercises and combinations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To understand modern as a technically demanding and diverse dance genre and to develop a basic movement vocabulary
- To enhance spatial awareness, flexibility, coordination, balance, upper and lower body strength
- To develop core strength that supports good alignment and allows for connected, efficient movement in the extremities and beyond
- To develop an understanding of dynamics and the body's potential for energy and power
- To utilize physical and spatial concepts such as breath support, parallel vs. rotation, and full range of motion
- To execute and perform floor exercises, across the floor, and longer center combinations and to understand the purpose of each exercise
- To develop creativity through choreographic exploration

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Regular and punctual attendance. See Attendance Policy.
- Proper attire and a water bottle. Light weight, flexible clothing is a must. No: jeans, skirts, baggy clothes or jewelry. Yes: leotards, tights, form-fitting tees, athletic or yoga wear that hugs the body and allows the instructor to view and correct alignment. Please make sure that hair is pulled back, and DO NOT CHEW GUM. Socks are permitted for the warm up but must be removed when we move across the floor. No shoes are needed.
- Completion of the mid-term and final exams. The mid-term is a physical exam and will involve learning, memorizing and performing a given combination in small groups. The final exam is an exploration of modern dance choreography, and students will be graded on creativity of movement invention. If you fail to participate in the mid-term and final exams or do not show up without prior notice, you will not pass this course.
- Self-evaluation paper. To be turned in at the end of the semester.
- Active focus, full participation and good classroom etiquette.

- The ability to apply corrections in class is extremely important. If I am working with another student, it is your responsibility to listen and apply the information to your own progress. Improvement based on individual corrections and emphasized concepts must be visible by the end of semester.
- Commitment to the art and practice of dance technique/performance is a must. Students must demonstrate a clear willingness to learn and must do so with an open and respectful attitude.
- Please turn your cell phones to silent before entering the class. Texting during class constitutes an automatic zero for the day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Religious holidays approved by the college may be observed without penalty. However, your instructor must be informed of your intention to do so in writing and in advance of the holiday.

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to attend all classes at the scheduled time; therefore tardiness and absences affect your final grade. A maximum of two TTH absences are allowed without penalty. There are no excused absences in this class. If you have to miss a class due to unusual circumstances (serious illness/emergencies), you must communicate your reasons to your instructor prior to the absence via email or voice message; if that is impossible, you must communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able. **If you miss two consecutive days it is the instructor's responsibility to report your name to the Office of Academic Services.

After the allowed absences (2), each following absence will result in a 5% reduction of your final grade.

3 absences = 5% reduction; 4 absences = 10% reduction; 5 absences = 15% reduction; 6 absences = 20% reduction; 7 absences = 25% reduction; 8 absences = automatic final grade of F

You are expected to be on time for class. If you arrive after roll call, you are responsible to confirm your presence with your instructor.

At the end of the semester, MAKE UP work may be provided at the instructor's discretion. For make up work to be considered, 1) all absences must be valid 2) you must provide acceptable medical documentation or a reasonable explanation regarding an exceptional circumstance must be provided 3) you must schedule an appointment in a timely manner for the purpose of presenting a record of missed classes and your justification for the absences. Your instructor will decide whether make-up opportunities should be granted and will set a deadline for the completion of such work before final grades are due.

EVALUATION

Each student will be evaluated on the following scale:

Investment and Attendance	70 %
Mid-term	10 %
Self Evaluation Paper	10 %
Final Exam	10 %

Investment (70 %)

“Investment” is not the same as “attendance.” You are not just graded on attendance but also on your participation, willingness to take risks and to take yourself seriously, active commitment to the learning process, and visible technical improvement.

Tardiness Policy: You are expected to be on time for class. If you arrive after role is called, it is your responsibility to confirm your attendance with your instructor. If you arrive more than 5 minutes after warm-up has begun, you will not be allowed to participate and will be counted absent for the day. Excessive tardies will result in a lowered final grade.

Observation Policy: You are given 1 active observation to use as you wish. Beyond 1, each observation will count as an absence.

Written Assignment (10 %)

Please jot down a few notes about your experience in class. It will make your self-evaluation paper easier to write at the end of the semester.

Mid-term and Final Exams (20 %)

Mid-term Physical Exam (10 %)

Final Choreographic Project (10 %)

GRADING SYSTEM

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-79 F = 59 or Below

There are no required texts for this class

This class involves light touching for correctional purposes. If you are uncomfortable and do not want to be physically corrected, please let me know.

A water bottle is required.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the semester. As the instructor, it is not my responsibility to keep you informed of your class standing (i.e. absences, tardies, current grade), but I am always available with that information upon request. In addition, if you come to class late or unprepared/not properly dressed, I will deduct points without comment.