

DN 400 Section 001: Special Topics

Spring 2013

3 Credit Hours

Primary Instructor: Stacy Alley

Syllabus subject to change.

Prerequisites

From the Student Records System

No prerequisites found.

Course Description

A studio class focusing on intermediate/advanced jazz dance technique emphasizing work in correct body alignment, improvisation, flexibility, strengthening exercises, and performance. Students will be taught dance combinations in classical jazz and musical theatre dance to enhance technical skills and prepare them for professional work.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able:

1. To define the language and identify the techniques of intermediate jazz dance as a physical, recreational, and artistic experience.
2. To identify and show creative expression through body movement.
3. To demonstrate generally improved physical awareness, endurance, balance, coordination and conditioning, flexibility, and rhythm.
4. To self-assess in order to examine his/her own individual rate of progress and choose areas on which to work more.
5. Better prepared for the professional world of dance.

Outline of Topics

- I. Eight weeks of classical jazz technique
- II. Four weeks of modern and/or classical musical theatre jazz
- III. Two weeks focusing on the audition process

Exams and Assignments

1. **Class Participation:** You are graded on your own individual effort and improvement, more specifically on your preparedness, willingness to take risks, and by showing a consistent growth in the course objectives by applying yourself fully to each class.

2. **Self-Assessment Papers:** You will be required to write a four-five page paper at the beginning of the semester in which you will assess yourself as a mover/dancer and then again at the end of the semester, noting how you have changed as a mover/dancer, the areas in dance you need to work on, have improved upon, etc. More specific guidelines will be given to you before each paper is due.
3. **One technique exam:** Technique exams are based on exercises/combinations worked on each week of class and are graded on various components and criteria that will be explained to you prior to each exam.
4. **Dance Concert Attendance and Critique:** *ARDT* -- Feb. 19-23 **AND** *Show Boat* -- April 15-21 -- attend performances and turn in a four-five page critique, focusing on the technique and performance quality of the dancers. More specific guidelines will be given to you before each paper is due.
5. **Final Exam/Performance:** Grading criteria is the same as the technique exams with the added element of performance.

Grading Policy

Grading Scale:

100-95= A

94-90= A-

89-86= B+

85-82= B

81-79= B-

78-75= C+

74-71= C

70-68= C-

67-64= D+

63-60= D

59-57= D-

<57= F

There are 700 points possible in this class:

1. **Class Participation: 100 points**
2. **Self-Assessment: 2 @ 50 points each**
3. **Technique exam: 100 points**
4. **Final Exam/Performance: 200 points**
5. **Choreography/Teaching Assignment: 100 points**
6. **ARDT/Show Boat critiques: 2 @ 50 points each**

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

It is extremely hard to make-up dance exams. If, for some reason, that you must miss an exam, performance, or presentation, it is up to you to make arrangements with the professor the class period that you return if not sooner. Only those with an excused absence with written documentation will be allowed to make-up any assignments.

Attendance Policy

This is a performance/participation course and attendance is mandatory! You are allowed to miss two classes after which your grade will be lowered one third of a letter grade for each subsequent absence. **This includes both excused and unexcused absences.** Three tardies equal one absence and will also lower your grade a third of a letter grade.

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.

Attire

Please dress neatly so that I can see your body and your feet. After warm-up (bare feet please), you can wear jazz shoes, socks, or no shoes at all--that is up to you. I ask for hair to be pulled out of the face and jewelry to be kept to a minimum.

Other Course Materials

N/A

Extra Credit Opportunities

N/A

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

[The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy](#) will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar, sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students ([sign up at myBama](#))
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisories are broadcast via WUOA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit wvuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.

Course Schedule

JANUARY

- 9 Intro/Go over syllabus
- 14 Learn Warm-up/Self-assessment assignment given
- 16 Technique/Across the Floor (pirouette prep, chaines)
- 21 Technique/Across the Floor (various turns, rhythm combos)
- 23 Technique/Learn combo #1/**Self-assessment assignment due**
- 28 Technique/Across the Floor (patterns, change of direction)/combo
- 30 Technique/Across the Floor (turns, jumps, etc.)

FEBRUARY

- 4 Combo #1/discussion of choreographer/show
- 6 Technique/combo #1
- 11 In-depth work on combo/discussion of style
- 13 TBA
- 18 Midterm Review
- 20 Midterm -- Technique exam -- Group #1
- 25 Midterm -- Technique exam -- Group #2
- 27 Evaluations -- Group #1 -- ARDT Critique due

MARCH

- 4 Evaluations -- Group #2 -- ARDT Critique due

- 6 SETC -- No class
- 11 Learn Combination #2
- 13 Combo #2, Technique continued
- 18 Discussion of Dance Alabama/Viewing of musical theatre film
- 20 Viewing of musical theatre film
- 25 Spring Break
- 27 Spring Break

APRIL

- 1 Technique/Across the Floor (big jumps, turns)/Final combo/Final self-assessment assignment given
- 3 Final combo
- 8 Final combo work
- 10 Review for final/**Final self-assessment assignment due**
- 15 Final Exam -- Group #1
- 17 Final Exam -- Group #2
- 22 Evaluations -- Group #1 -- *Show Boat* critiques due
- 24 Evaluations -- Group #2 -- *Show Boat* critiques due

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.