

Alma College
Department of Theatre and Dance
Course Syllabus: THD 244-01 Ballet II
Winter 2017

Instructor: Crystal Fullmer
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Office: Heritage Center
Office Hours: M/W 1:30-2:20 PM, T/Th
2:00-3:00 PM, or by appointment

Course Description: Continuation of Ballet I. Development of ballet combinations and concentration on body alignment.

This course is a study in the intermediate level of classical ballet technique and will emphasize ballet dance skill and vocabulary, expression, and musicality. The movement style will be heavily influenced by the Russian and Cecchetti methods.

The class periods will include a warm-up at the barre, center work and movement across the floor. The movements taught in this class are designed to give students the proper alignment, strength, balance and flexibility for intermediate ballet dance class work. Introduction to some of the concepts from Progressing Ballet Technique may occasionally be included in class.

Course Objectives:

- To further develop proper body alignment and mechanics as required in ballet technique.
- To develop and understand ballet dance skills and vocabulary.
- To create a clearer sense of efficient body usage and spatial direction.
- To demonstrate awareness of focus as it pertains to performance quality.
- To analyze and communicate ideas of ballet clearly.

| Learner Outcomes | Assessment Outcomes |
|---|---|
| Define Ballet II French terminology (both orally and in written form). | Students will identify correct terminology in written tests and movement exams. |
| Apply the principals of correct intermediate ballet technique. | Students will demonstrate correct technique in skill tests and classroom exercises and combinations. |
| Demonstrate good body alignment and mechanics, and refine technical skills. | Students will be able to point out errors in body alignment and mechanics, and analyze the needed correction. |

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| Demonstrate performance quality center work. | Students will critically self-assess/peer-assess performance quality combinations in small groups. |
| Analyze and communicate ideas related to the science of dance and/or the history of dance. | Students will read a book from the assigned list and write a response. |

Suggested Texts:

- *Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet* by Gail Grant. (Or another ballet terminology dictionary.)
- *Inside Ballet Technique: Separating Anatomical Fact from Fiction in the Ballet Class* by Valerie Grieg.

POLICIES

Dress Code: Hair must be kept away from the face. *Long hair is expected to be worn in a bun, or other classical dance style. Street clothes are not allowed.*

- No dangling jewelry (earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.)
- No hats
- No baggy clothing! Warm-up clothing (sweatshirts, legwarmers, etc.) will be permitted on cold days through the second combination at the barre.

Ladies: Solid black leotards, pink tights, and ballet slippers are **required**. NO skirts! (Must have a black leotard in dressing room at all times.)

Gentlemen: Dance belts, fitted t-shirts, tights/fitted shorts, and ballet slippers are **required**. (Must have black shirt and black tights/shorts in dressing room at all times.)

Tuesday dress code is strictly adhered to. Thursday is an open day to wear different colors of leotards and tights.

*If you have any questions, or are unsure if something is acceptable, please ask before wearing it to class. Clothing requirements are part of your participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette (goes toward participation grade):

- No gum chewing, or eating during class.
- Wait to get water until the break between barre and center. Water bottles are encouraged.
- Do not sit during class.
- Do not lean on the barres.
- Be respectful of the instructor and other students.

- Be respectful of the accompanist by finishing with the music.
- Use the time between combinations for practice/stretching.
- Actively listen to, and try to apply, the corrections given to others.
- If you have a question or comment that is not directly related to classwork being covered, hold it until after class.
- Quickly and quietly inform the instructor (between combinations) if you need to sit down/leave the room (i.e. you are feeling light-headed, are injured, need to use the restroom, etc.).
- If you are late, *hurry to get in place*.

Attendance and Participation: Class attendance and participation is **absolutely mandatory** and will be incorporated into the final grade. Attendance will be taken daily. Students are required to attend every session on time and ready to work. Students are allowed two (2) absences. After two absences your grade will drop by one letter grade and continue to drop with any additional absences. *You cannot make up unexcused absences.*

Students who are more than 5 minutes late to class may not join the class once exercises have begun. *Excessive lateness will result in an absence.*

To be considered in attendance, students are expected to dress appropriately for the activity, be in class on time and participate productively until the class is officially ended. Students are also expected to listen and follow instructions, demonstrate a positive attitude about learning, and demonstrate social skills appropriate to the activity.

Observations: If you need to observe a class due to injury or illness, you must hand in an observation paper for that day at the end of class, or you will be marked absent. At the beginning of class, the instructor will determine the topic of your written observation. *Excessive observation days will impact your participation grade, consequently lowering your final grade.*

Injury: If you think you are injured during class, stop dancing immediately and bring it to the attention of the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS

Event Ushering: Students **must** usher **one event** in the Heritage Center during the semester (approximately 3 hours). Sign up for an event at the Box Office any time during the first two weeks of class.

Reading/Writing Assignments: Students will be required to read an approved book related to the art and/or science of ballet and write a response for the assignment on Moodle.

Students who have not before read *Inside Ballet Technique: Separating Anatomical Fact from Fiction in the Ballet Class* by Valerie Grieg will be required to read this text.

Students who have previously read this book may choose from the list of options below (in no particular order):

- *Apollo's Angels* by Jennifer Homans
- *Dancing the Fairy Tale* by Laura Katz Rizzo
- *Diet for Dancers* by Robin D. Chmelar & Sally S. Fitt
- *Russian Ballet Master: The Memoirs of Marius Petipa* edited by Lillian Moore
- *The Joffrey Ballet: Robert Joffrey and the Making of an American Dance Company* by Sasha Anawalt (big)
- *Michel Fokine and His Ballets* by Cyril Beaumont
- *The Ballets of Antony Tudor, Studies in Psyche and Satire* by Judith Chazin-Bennahum
- *The One and Only: The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo* by Jack Anderson
- *Maria Tallchief, America's Prima Ballerina* by Maria Tallchief with Larry Kaplan
- *Dancing Through It* by Jennifer Ringer
- *The Diary of Vaslav Nijinsky* edit by Joan Acocella
- *Dancing on My Grave* by Gelsey Kirkland
- *Frederic Franklin* by Leslie Norton
- *From Petipa to Balanchine* by Tim Scholl

Written Quiz: A written quiz on ballet vocabulary, definitions, spelling and concepts will be given during this course.

Skill/Movement Exam: In-class evaluation and movement exams will be conducted during the course. This will consist of recording on video at least one movement combination, to be self-evaluated, as well as analyzed by the instructor.

Final Grade Evaluation:

40% Daily Attendance

25% Daily Participation

5% Event Ushering

10% Writing Assignments

10% Written Quiz

10% Movement Exam(s)

Important Dates:

Spring Concert Audition – January 11, 5:30 PM

Dance Open House – January 16

School Performance – January 18

Student Choreography Concert – January 19-22

SHIFT Senior Concert – February 10-11

Pilobolus *Shadowland* in Midland – February 18

Winter Recess – February 25-March 5

Spring Dance Concert – March 17-19

ACDA – March 25-28

Honors Day – April 6

Final Exam – April 17, 2-4 PM

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Alma College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability and you would like to request accommodations, please see Nate Payovich (payovichn@alma.edu) in the Center for Student Opportunity (Tyler-Van Dusen) so that such accommodations can be considered. If you currently receive accommodation letters from the CSO, please meet with me outside of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.