

Alma College
Department of Theatre and Dance

**Course Syllabus: THD 344-01 Ballet III
Fall 2015**

Instructor: Crystal Fullmer
Email: fullmercj@alma.edu
Phone: 989-463-7141
Office: Heritage Center

Office Hours: M/W 10:00-11:30 AM
T/Th 4:00-5:00 PM
Or by appointment
Class Times: M/W/F 3:30-4:50 PM

Course Description/Content: Continuation of Ballet II. Emphasis on further development of style and technique.

This course is a study in the advanced level of classical ballet technique. This course will emphasize ballet dance skill and vocabulary, expression, and musicality and will primarily focus on classical ballet taught in the Russian and Cecchetti styles.

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 advanced ballet dance class work.

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 develop a clear understanding of musicality.

Learner Outcomes	Assessment Outcomes
Define Ballet III French terminology (both orally and in written form).	Students will identify correct terminology in written tests and movement exams.
Apply the principals of correct advanced 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.
Demonstrate performance quality center work.	Students will critically self-assess/peer-assess performance quality combinations in small groups.

Required Text: There is no required text for this course.

Suggested Texts: *Inside Ballet Technique: Separating Anatomical Fact from Fiction in the Ballet Class* by Valerie Grieg.

Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant.

101 Stories of the Great Ballets by George Balanchine

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 color leotards, solid color 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.)

*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 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.

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.*

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.

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

Cell Phone Policy: Absolutely no cell phone use during class time. Phones should be kept with your personal belongings stowed in the locker room/dressing area.

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

Reading/Writing Assignments: There will be assignments regarding human anatomy, ballet history, and current topics in the dance world given through Moodle. Some of these will be written responses to dance on film.

Written Quiz: Written quiz(zes) 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% Discussion Assignments

10% Written Quiz(zes)

10% Movement Exam(s)

Important Dates:

Dance Film Viewing – October 9, November 13, December 11

Fall Dance Concert – November 13-15, 2015

Fall Recess – October 19-20, 2015

Thanksgiving Break – November 25-29, 2015

Final Exam December –16, 2015 @ 9-11 AM

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.