

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Dance Program, Department of Theatre and Dance
Spring 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

DNC 126.01-Ballet I

Credit: 2 Hours

TTH 9:30-10:50am - AB3 Room 102

Instructor: Heather Samuelson
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Ballet I is a physical class in which students learn the basic fundamentals of ballet technique. This class is geared towards non-dance majors, presuming no former ballet training but requires slightly developed movement skills.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn the basic fundamentals of ballet technique and ballet history.
2. To learn the proper body alignment and body isolation and to improve the dancer's overall body awareness, while increasing strength, flexibility, coordination and endurance.
3. To learn basic ballet vocabulary.
4. To develop musicality, spatial and rhythmic awareness while dancing and improve movement memory.
5. Gain an appreciation for the art of dance.

Recommended (but not required) Reading:

- Ballet Basics (Hammond, Sandra Noll - 5th Ed.) McGraw Hill, 2004
ISBN: 0-07 - 255714-1
- Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet (Grant, Gail - 3rd Ed.) Dover Publications, 1982 ISBN: 0-486-21843-0

Required Attire:

Women: Black Leotard with Pink tights and Pink ballet shoes

Men: Form fitting White t-shirt, Black spandex tights (non-see through), Black ballet shoes, and dance belt.

No baggy clothing! Lines need to be seen; tight, form fitting clothing is necessary!

Warm ups are allowed for the beginning of class. Dance skirts and shorts are acceptable with tights.

Hair must be pulled up and away from the face (buns would be perfect). No dangling jewelry.

NO GUM IN CLASS!

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

1. Please be on time. It is considered disrespectful to walk into any dance class late. If the student is tardy, she/he should first ask the instructor for permission to join the class. Any student who comes in after the tendú exercise will not be allowed to take the class. They have missed important warm-up exercises and will have to observe the rest of the class.

2. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES!!! They disrupt the class and ring tones are annoying!

3. Please do not bring food or drinks into the dance studios. We want to keep our space clean and bug free! Bottled water is acceptable. Try to pick up after yourself and throw away any trash that you might bring into the studios. No Gum In Class!

4. Please be respectful of others. This is a place of learning and once you step into the studio, you are all on the same level. Be positive with yourself and with others. This should be a safe place for you to grow as a dancer and to feel comfortable with yourself.

Participation:

Dance is an art form that must be practiced daily for mastery. Students are expected to fully participate in each class. It is recommended that any student who is ill should attempt to attend class unless they are contagious or confined to a bed. Any student who opts to observe and not participate will receive partial credit for that class. Class observation gives students a good learning opportunity to listen to explanations and corrections the instructor has given out. Lack of participation for any sustained period of time due to illness or injury may result in the possibility of dropping out of the class entirely. **Daily participation means committing to the class and is worth a considerable amount of a student's final grade.**

Attendance:

Each student is allowed to miss **4 individual classes for any reason**, i.e., sick, tired, skipping, sleeping, traveling. Each additional absence will drop your final grade by 1 full letter grade. A student who has more than **8 absences**, will not pass the class, resulting in a failing final grade. An absence will be excused if the student notifies the instructor when late. (Please do this at the end of class.) Points will also be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. For every 3 tardies, the student will obtain 1 absence. **Attendance will be strictly enforced.** It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of the number of absences acquired.

Grading Percentages:

Daily Participation 25%
Dance Concert Critique Paper 15%
Skills Tests 20%
Midterm 20%
Final 20%

Grading Scale:

100-90 = A
89-80 = B
79-70 = C
69-60 = D
59 or lower = F

Daily Participation Grading:

For each class, you have the opportunity to earn a total of 10 points by being on time, wearing proper attire, showing a positive attitude and giving 100% effort. Students will lose points for being late or leaving early, not wearing proper dance attire, slacking off, having a bad attitude or being rude or disrespectful. As stated before, a student who observes class will only earn partial points. No points can be earned if the student is absent.

Requirements for Dance Concert Critique Paper:

Each student will be required to write **ONE** dance concert critique paper. The paper can only be written over a dance concert, not a play or musical. Concert dates and times are posted throughout the dance building. The instructor will also make concert dates and times apparent in class. Each paper is to be **exactly 3pages long and double spaced**. A cover page is not required, but if the student feels the need to attach one, he/she may. Each page should have the

instructor's name, class number, date, and page number on it. The papers may consist of any discussion over the dancing, costuming, general idea, atmosphere of the dance, or all of the above. The dance concert critique paper should not discredit any choreographer of the department. Please mention the choreographer's name and the title of his/her piece. This is to ensure that the student relates commentary to the correct dance. The paper is to be turned in exactly one week after the concert has closed. A program or ticket stub is to be attached to the back of the critique paper at the point of admittance. Please write with proper use of the English language, grammar, and punctuation. Points will be deducted for poor writing.

Any paper that has been plagiarized, will automatically receive a failing grade and the student will be taken to the department head and the dean.

All critique papers must be turned in exactly one week after the concert has closed.

Skills Tests:

Periodically throughout the semester, I will be giving out simple skills tests. They usually consist of short combinations that we have been working on in class. Usually, I will videotape in small groups and will be grading on factors like alignment, coordination, stability, mobility, style, musicality, memory and overall execution of the steps.

Midterm and Final Exam:

Your midterm will consist of two parts: a skills test, testing your comprehension and performance of work up to that point, and a written test of vocabulary terms and dance mechanics used up to that point in class. Your final exam grade will consist of participation and performance in the Non-Majors Workshop(TBA) and a written test of vocabulary terms and dance mechanics used throughout the semester.

Make-Up Policy:

Exams and skills tests will not be accepted late and cannot be made up, unless accompanied by a doctor's note. Written assignments will be accepted late, however 1 letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. If the student is in good standing, absences can be made up by other assignments at the instructor's discretion.

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time.