

# Understanding Dance Syllabus

---

## Course Information

DANC 1310.002 Understanding Dance  
Fall, 2022  
AH2 1.204  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00am - 9:50am

---

## Professor Contact Information

Emmalyn Miron  
Email: emmalyn.miron@utdallas.edu Office phone: Please contact me via email  
Office: JO 5.410B  
Office hours: By arrangement via Teams or in person

---

### *Texas Core Curriculum*

*This course fulfills a requirement in the Texas Core Curriculum as it is offered at UT Dallas. Thus, it shares characteristics and course objectives with other courses that fulfill the same requirement across the university and among other public colleges and universities in Texas. These objectives will be reflected in assignments and exam questions, as well as in the student learning outcomes specific to this course. If you complete this course successfully, it is fully transferable among all Texas public colleges and universities. This information explains the statewide uniform requirements for General Core Area 050 Creative Arts:*

---

## Course Description

Lectures, discussions, video and live performance viewings designed to explore artistic, philosophical, and historical dimensions of the theatrical dance experience. Areas of emphases may include differing dance traditions, the nature of dance compared to other performing arts, and relations between social and theatrical dance.

---

## Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

**General Education Core Objectives:** Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objectives:

- Critical thinking skills – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions

- Communication skills – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication
- Teamwork – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view
- Social responsibility – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

- Critical thinking skills; Students will be able to analyze live performances by applying fundamental concepts of Space/Time/Energy as discussed in class and course texts (assessed via the dance analyses, live performance analyses and exams/final)
- Communication skills; students will be able to synthesize course material and present research on a dance-related topic (assessed via reflection papers and presentation reports)
- Teamwork; students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the creative process of dance as an art form by creating a group presentation about a world dance form (assessed via the group presentation and presentation reports)
- Social responsibility; Students will be able to demonstrate recognition of significant historical dance figures and periods and selected world dance genres (assessed via exams/final)

---

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

*Textbook:*

Ambrosio, N. (2018). *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. (8th ed.)

\*\*The text is offered in the campus bookstore

\*\*You may also purchase online directly from Kendall Hunt, below is link where the eBook or print version may be purchased along with the ISBN. Follow the link and add either the eBook or print version to the cart. The website will direct you to create an account before check out, in order for their item to be sent.

<http://www.kendallhunt.com/ambrosio/>

ISBN:

Print- 978-1-5249-2212-2

E-book- 9781792443848

Attire: On specified days (see course schedule for ‘dance practicum’), students will be required to dress for movement class. Wear stretchy, reasonably form-fitting pants and tops, long hair must be tied back from your face, no dangling jewelry, chewing gum, or hats. Feet will be bare (unless otherwise noted). Water bottles are recommended.

### Additional Course requirements

Students will be required to view and critique two live dance concerts/performances. One of these must be the UTD Musical, *American Idiot*, which will take place the last weekend in October and the first weekend in November. You will be provided with a list of approved dance concert performances from which to choose a concert to attend for your other credit. Some performances have an admission fee. Choose the dates, ticket prices and locations that are appropriate for you and attend accordingly. Students are responsible for their own transportation to these events. In addition to the required analysis, a program from the concert attended must be submitted with your signature on the cover. Analysis and program must be submitted on eLearning. Scan and submit on eLearning the cover of the program and the page or pages giving information of dances performed, choreographer, composer or musical artist, any program notes about the dance, and dancers.

\*\*See the instructor if you have questions about attending an event not listed as approved.

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Homework (due in class the following class period)</b>
8/22	Course Intro/Syllabus	Read Chap. 1 P.3-14
8/24	Dance as an Art Form/Origins of Dance	Read Chap. 1 P.14 - end
8/26	Art and Aesthetic Expression	Read Chap. 2
8/29	Choreographer/y/stage directions	Read Chap. 3
8/31	The Dancer, The Audience	Read Chap. 4
9/2	Writing about Dance: Space/Time/Energy	
9/5	NO CLASS, Labor Day	
9/7	Researching Dance	
9/9	Persian Dance: Guest speaker	
9/12	<b>Exam 1</b>	Read Chap. 5
9/14	Court/Romantic, Classical & Contemporary Ballet	
9/16	Ballet Reflection	Read Chap. 6 p. 79-85
9/19	Modern/Contemporary	Read Chap. 6 p. 85-end
9/21	Post Modern	Read Chap. 7
9/23	Improv/Creative Movement and time in class to begin group projects	
9/26	<b>Major Figures in Ballet/Modern Group Projects</b>	

9/28	<b>Major Figures in Ballet/Modern Group Projects</b>	Read Chap. 9 p.131-135 (Jazz)
9/30	Jazz	Read Chap. 9 p. 135-139 (Music Theatre)
10/3	Music Theatre	
10/5	Music Theatre	Read Chap. 9 p. 139- 144 (Tap)
10/7	Tap	Read Chap. 9 p. 145-end
10/10	<b>Major figures in Tap/Jazz/MT Presentations</b>	
10/12	<b>Major figures in Tap/Jazz MT Presentations</b>	
10/14	<b>Exam 2</b>	Read Chap. 8 p. 137-125
10/17	World Dance/Africa, Japan	
10/19	Indian Dance: Guest Speaker	Read Chap. 8 p.125-end (Folk)
10/21	Folk Dance	
10/24	Celtic Dance	Read Chap. 10
10/26	Social Dance Ballroom/Swing	
10/28	Social Dance: Time periods ( <b>First Performance Attendance Due</b> )	Read article
10/31	Dance article: Class discussion	Read Chap. 11
11/2	Dance Production	
11/4	<b>Dance Production Projects</b>	
11/7	<b>Dance Production Projects</b>	
11/9	Dance Practicum: Meet in Theatre	
11/11	Post Practicum class discussion	
11/14	Dance Practicum: Meet in Theatre	
11/16	Post Practicum class discussion	Read Article
11/18	Dance and Society Article	
11/21	<b>World Dance Final Presentations</b>	
11/23	NO CLASS, FALL BREAK	
11/25	NO CLASS, FALL BREAK	
11/28	<b>World Dance Final Presentations</b>	
11/30	<b>World Dance Final Presentations</b>	
12/2	No Class: Study Day	
12/5	<b>Final (Second Performance Attendance due)</b>	
12/7	Social Dance Party	

Labor Day Sept 5

Fall Break Nov 21-23

Thanksgiving Nov 24-27

\*Please see the UTD Academic Calendar for add/drop dates

**\* Calendar is subject to change**

## Grading Policy

15% Participation

15% Dance Performance Attendance and Analysis

20% Assignments (Discussion Boards, Papers, Projects)

30% Exams

20% Final Presentation

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%	F = 59% and below
A = 90-96%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%	

---

**Course & Instructor Policies**

**Course & Instructor Policies**

Please note that this is an introductory class. Although students in the class will have a wide range of dance experience, class participation grades are not based on technical mastery, previous knowledge, or on comparison with other class members. Participation grades are based on positive and active contribution; engaging fully in class discussion and activities with a positive and supportive attitude toward the material and your classmates.

**Attendance: Attendance is critical to your success in this class!** Please see the instructor in advance if you know that you must miss a class. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** Absence from class is not an excuse for late work or failure to be prepared for the next lesson. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed if you are absent. Exchanging email addresses with a classmate is suggested as a way to keep informed in case of unforeseen circumstances. You may also email the instructor with questions regarding the course and course materials.

Students will be allowed two unexcused absences over the course of the semester. After two unexcused absences, semester grade will drop by one level for each unexcused absence (for example A+ will drop to A, A to A-, A- to B+ et...) **Excused absences are; illness, medical emergency, accident, death in family, University sponsored activities (athletic teams, et...) & MUST be accompanied by official written documentation.** Absences excused per above guidelines will not affect student grade.

**Tardiness:** Students will be allowed one tardy. After one, tardiness will incur a 1 point reduction in the 5 point participation/class discussion grade. Student is tardy if he/she arrives after official class time (9:00am).

If student arrives after 15 minutes late for a movement practicum session it may not be safe for the student to participate and he/she may be asked to sit out and observe, incurring a further point deduction from the movement practicum grade.

**Observation:** If a student is ill or injured or provides a valid reason to the instructor (prior to class) for non-participation in a movement session, student may sit out and observe. Students sitting out will hand in written class observations at the end of the session to earn participation credit.

Cell phone: **Cell phones must be silenced before start of class!!** If there is an emergency that requires your cell phone be left on; instructor must be notified before the start of class. **Failure to notify may result in loss of 1 point per disruption from the participation/class discussion grade.**

Late work: Late work will not be accepted except with documented approved absence (see 'attendance').

Missed work: missed work such as in-class assignments, homework, etc. cannot be made-up unless missed due to documented approved excused absence.

Extra Credit: Two opportunities for extra credit are available to each student. See eLearning for the extra credit options. Extra credit is due on the Monday of finals week before noon. Late extra credit assignments will not be accepted

---

**Field Trip Policies** Students are responsible for obtaining their own tickets and providing their own transportation to and from dance concerts and any other events they choose to attend.

---

### **Class Materials**

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

---

### **Class Attendance**

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

---

## **Class Participation**

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

---

## **Class Recordings**

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings may be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

---

## **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

---

## **Academic Support Resources and Accessibility**

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

Also, please see the [Office of Student AccessAbility](#) which assists students who need a range

of accommodations to promote full participation and engagement.

---

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

---

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*