

# Course Syllabus – Fall 2025

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## Course Information

### **DANC 1310.hn1**

Course Title            Understanding Dance – CV Honors  
Term                      Fall 2025  
Days & Times            TR 11:30am

## **Professor Contact Information**

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Melissa Johnson  
Email: maj140430@utdallas.edu  
Office phone: none, please use email  
Office: JO 5.402  
Office hours: MW 1:00pm – 2:00pm or TR 1:00pm- 2:00pm

## **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

None

## **Course Description**

Understanding Dance offers the student an opportunity to develop an awareness and appreciation of dance in its cultural, social, and artistic contexts through explorations in dance aesthetics, history, and the creative process. Students will study dance through lecture, viewing and critiquing of live and video dance performances, readings, participatory study of selected dance genres, exposure to the art of theatrical production, and exploration of the creative process. This class will view dance, talk about dance and explore dance as a living embodiment of our culture and ourselves.

## **General Core Area 050 Creative Arts**

**Description:** Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

**Objectives:**    **Critical Thinking (CT)**–to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information  
                      **Communication (COM)**–to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication  
                      **Teamwork (TW)**-to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

**Social Responsibility (SR)**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

### **Visual and Performing Arts Program Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to describe and apply the basic methodologies and processes of the creative and performing arts.
2. Students will demonstrate effective critical and analytical skills through oral and/or written communication.
3. Students will learn and employ a broad knowledge of the principles and history of at least one major form of artistic expression.
4. Students will gain experience and competency in at least one area of the creative and performing arts.

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

1. Given text readings, video viewings, and class discussions, students will demonstrate recognition of significant historical dance figures and periods and selected world dance genres.
2. Drawing from texts, viewing of live and video recorded dance, discussion and lecture, students will demonstrate an understanding of the creative process and of dance as an art form by completing and experiencing classroom assignments, movement workshops and activities, and presentations.
3. Students will be able to analyze live performances by applying fundamental concepts of Space/Time/Energy as discussed in class and course texts.
4. Students will be able to synthesize and present research on social dance forms and a prominent figure in dance.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

**Textbook:** Ambrosio, N. *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company  
The 8<sup>th</sup> ed. text is offered in the [campus bookstore](#)  
The 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Text is offered at the website [Kendall Hunt Publishing](#)

### **Additional Course requirements**

Students will be required to view and critique a live dance concert as well as the UTD's musical *Shrek*. Each concert/performance will have different written criteria and a program and your ticket from each performance must accompany the written portion with your signature and printed name on both. The instructor will provide an approved performance list. The UTD will be in the University Theater on Oct. 23 -25 or Oct. 30-31. Requirements for each analysis can be found in

eLearning. 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

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

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week/ Dates	Unit	Weekly Course Content	Assignment	Due Date
1 8/25 – 8/31	1	Introduction, What is Dance?	Discussion Board: Favorite Dance	8/31 at 11:59pm
2 9/1 – 9/7	1	Time Periods and Art and Aesthetic		
3 9/8 - 9/14	1	The choreographer and choreographic process	Choreographic Devices and Laban Efforts	During class
4 9/15 – 9/21	1	The dancer, performer, and audience	Exam #1 (Unit 1)	
5 9/22 – 9/28	2	Court and Romantic Ballet		
6 9/29 – 10/5	2	Classical and Contemporary Ballet	Research Paper: Dance & Politics	10/5 at 11:59pm
7 10/6 – 10/12	2	Pioneers and Next generation of modern dance		10/12 at 11:59pm
8 10/13 – 10/19	2	Post-Modern dance	Site Specific Dance	During class
9 10/20 – 10/26		Writing about Dance	Exam 2 (Unit 2)	
10 10/27 – 11/2	3	World Dance	World Dance Assignment Dance Analysis	In class 11/2 at 11:59pm
11 11/3 - 11/9	3	Dance Practicum	Jazz, Tap, Musical Theater	
12 11/10 – 11/16	3	Dance Practicum		
13 11/17 – 11/23	3	Social Dance	Social Dance Presentation Exam #3	In class Due 11/23

14 11/24 – 11/30	3	Thanksgiving Break		
15 12/1 – 12/7		Begin Final Project	Final Project Presentation Dance Analysis #2	12/7 at 11:59pm
16 12/9		Final Project Presentation		

**\*\* *Calendar and Due Dates subject to change***

Important Dates:

Labor Day	Mon. Sept. 1
Last day to drop without a “W”	Wed. Sept. 10
Fall/ Thanksgiving Break	Mon. Nov 27- 30
Last day of classes	Thurs. Dec. 9
Final Exams	Dec. 11-16

**Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to Public Health Measures**

UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the Spring 2022 semester to the extent allowed by state governance. Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order [GA-38](#) prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students, and members of the public on campus. However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC. Check the [Comets United: Latest Updates webpage](#) for the latest guidance on the University’s public health measures. Comets are expected to carry out [Student Safety](#) protocols in adherence to the Comet Commitment. Unvaccinated Comets will be expected to complete the [Required Daily Health Screening](#). Those students who do not comply will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct for disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct – UTSP5003](#).

**Grading Policy**

- 15% Participation
- 15% Dance Performance Attendance and Analysis
- 20% Assignments (Discussion Boards, Research Paper, 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

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.

Participation/ Attendance: ***Participation and Attendance is critical to your success in this class!*** Please see the instructor in advance if you know that you must miss a class. Absence from class is not an excuse for late work or failure to be prepared for the next lesson. 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. 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](#)

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.

Late work: Late work will not be accepted except with documented approved absence.

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

You are expected to present your original work for this course. Plagiarism, collusion, and cheating are not permitted. If a student is found responsible for academic dishonesty, the professor reserves the right to assign a penalty ranging from a “0” on the assignment or assessment to an “F” in the course.

Plagiarism is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation- **including AI sources, must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used.**

Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else’s work for the assignments as if it were one’s own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

Collusion is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another student in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student, providing an inappropriate level of assistance, communicating answers to a classmate during an examination, removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers

## Grading Components:

**Discussion Forum:** Various discussion topics will be posted for class dialogue. Each person is required to engage in questioning and commenting on each other's posting in order share multiple perspectives on the same topic.

**Exams:** There are 3 exams. Each exam includes, but is not limited to true/false, matching, short essays and multiple-choice questions. Exams will cover the assigned reading, assigned lectures and videos.

**Writing Assignments:** There will be assigned short writing assignments. The grading scale is based on unique thought, critical thinking, connections to your personal history, and analyzed for quality of writing. More information about the writing assignments will be outlined in the instructions of each assignment. It is expected that all work in this course will be YOUR ORIGINAL WORK that was created specifically to meet the needs of this course.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else- **including AI sources, must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used.** Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and the instructor will follow the institution's policy to the letter in those instances.

**Research Paper:** There is one research paper that will be based on your textbook readings and posted online material. More information about the research paper will be outlined in the instruction's of that assignment.

**Live Concert and Performance Analysis:** After viewing your required live dance performances (from a list of options provided), a written dance analysis will assess your skills in viewing, perceiving and analyzing dance. More information about the critique assignment will be outlined in the instructions.

**Assignment Due Dates:** Late work will not be accepted, which includes any technological reasons other than eLearning outages. Please check your Course Calendar for all required course elements and their due dates.

**\*\*Be sure to save all your work that you are submitting throughout the entire term. There may be times we need to revisit or access your previously submitted work.**

**Optional Extra Credit:** You may complete up to two different extra credit assignments to potentially earn additional points towards your grade. Each extra credit assignment will add 2 points to your final grade for this course. Completing extra credit is optional. Please see eLearning for instructions and due dates.

### *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 will 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**

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>.

### **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.*