

Sam Houston State University
Department of Dance
Fall, 2017 Semester

Course Syllabus
DANC 2333.01–Ballet Dance Technique II-80673
3 hours credit

Classroom: James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center (PAC) Studio #258
Time: M/T/Th/F, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Instructor: Betty Nicolay
Office: PAC Dance Office Complex, Suite #150
Office hours: 10 am-1 pm MWF, 11 am-1pm TTh & by appointment
Phone: 294-1875 (Dance Office Phone)
E-mail: bjn002@shsu.edu
Mailbox: located in Dance Office Complex, Suite #150

Course Description: This is an intermediate level ballet technique class that presumes substantial previous exposure to ballet dance training. Students who are not dance majors must have permission of the instructor or department chair to register. The course will focus on ballet technique with an emphasis on postural alignment, body awareness, movement through space, and elements of artistry.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to...

1. demonstrate an understanding of **protocol** appropriate to the ballet classroom setting and a **professional attitude** toward the work.
2. **move with awareness and relative ease** through the space.
3. demonstrate knowledge and use of **vocabulary and theory** appropriate to the intermediate ballet experience.
4. demonstrate growth in the **application of principles** essential to classical ballet technique including the following: use of the breath, postural alignment, placement or stance, turn-out, distribution of weight, transfer of weight, lift, squareness, oppositional pulls, counterbalance, use of the plumb line, and balance.
5. demonstrate growth in body **awareness**.
6. refine performance of ballet technique by **strengthening, stretching, stabilizing, mobilizing, connecting, and articulating** the body.
7. demonstrate **self-reliance** and **confidence** in the execution of intermediate ballet classroom exercises.
8. demonstrate growth in the area of **musicality** by performing exercises within the correct tempo and rhythm and by practicing appropriate phrasing.
9. refine performance techniques of **projection and artistry**.

Required textbook: Your Ballet II notebook (See supply list below)
BRING IT TO EVERY CLASS.

Required supplies: **Bradded folder with pockets**
Notebook paper
(Optional but helpful insertable divider tabs)
Pencil or pen
Optional exercise mat or bath-sized towel (not beach towel), to be used for ballet conditioning work

Optional helpful, but not required, recommended resources:

Ballet Basics by Sandra Noll Hammond
Ballet Beyond the Basics by Sandra Noll Hammond
Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant

Classroom Attire:

Women: Women should wear ballet-pink tights under a black or solid-colored leotard in a style that does not reveal underclothing (sports bras included). Short solid-colored ballet skirts (or solid-colored shorts) are acceptable for wearing over leotards and tights. Pink leather or canvas ballet slippers are required.

Men: Men should wear black or gray tights with a dance belt underneath and a white (or solid-colored) t-shirt. **Black**, white, or nude-colored leather or canvas ballet shoes are required. If socks are worn, they should match the color of the shoes.

Men and Women: Hair should be neatly and securely pulled up away from the face. Longer-length ponytails or braids must be pinned securely in place on the head. Strings on shoes should be trimmed and tucked in to shoes with shoe elastics sewn on, not tied around the foot. Baggy cover-ups, hats or caps, and excessive jewelry are not appropriate and should not be worn in class.

Absolutely no food or gum allowed in the classroom. You may bring a water bottle with clear, unflavored drinking water to class with you. Drinking water is encouraged before, during, and after exercise.

No street shoes allowed in studios.

DANCE DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY - Due to the participatory nature of the course, attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each and every class period. Each absence in excess of **six class periods** will lower the student's course grade by **5 percentage points**. No make-up classes will be allowed. Absences for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation well in advance and presents official documentation. Professional opportunities will be assessed at half an absence with proper documentation of the event. All other absences count toward the total of six.

The student is responsible for all assignments given on days missed.

In *infrequent* cases of **minor injury or illness**, students may be allowed to observe rather than participate physically. In such cases the student must request the accommodation before class begins and present observation notes to the instructor at the conclusion of class. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USE OF ANY KIND WHILE PARTICIPATING BY OBSERVATION.**

Students with **ongoing medical or physical problems** must develop a program of recovery in consultation with a physician/physiotherapist and with the instructor. **If the condition interferes with the student's ability to participate for an extended period he or she will be advised to drop the course.**

TARDY POLICY – Students will not be allowed to be tardy to class. No student will be allowed in the studio once the class has started. Please be aware that **failure to be in class on time will result in an absence.**

DANCE MAJORS MEETINGS - Dance Majors meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Students in Dance Majors technique classes (i.e. DANC 1333, 2333, 3333, 4333 and DNC 1334, 2334, 3334, 4334) must attend Dance Majors meetings. **Absence from the Majors Meeting counts as one of the 6 absences allowed for the course.** Make your schedule clear for these times. **NO EXCUSES!!!**

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE - This semester the **Dance Gallery Festival** is a **required** performance. The festival performances are scheduled for **Friday and Saturday, October 27 & 28** at 8 pm in the SHSU Dance Theatre. In lieu of purchasing a textbook for this course, dance students are required to pay the full-price of \$15 for the Dance Gallery performance. There will be **no excused absences** from this production. Please

arrange your schedule to accommodate your attendance well in advance. **Failure to complete the Fine Arts Attendance requirement will result in a 10% penalty in your final course grade.**

CELL PHONE POLICY - No cell phones are allowed in class. Any student using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave class. **This early departure will be counted as an absence.**

DANCE PROGRAM CASTING POLICY – Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or a grade of F in other dance coursework will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.

Please see the Dance Department website for Policies Website:

Grading Policy:

Daily/Participation grades (70% of semester grade): Evaluation will be based on active daily participation in class, continuous daily progress in skill development, execution of material presented, completion of assignments, attitude and work ethic, promptness, **dress**, attendance and performance techniques.

Written Assignments (15% of semester grade): At the beginning of the semester you will be required to write a paper outlining goals and objectives for your technical development in ballet technique class. At mid-semester, you will be required to write a technical self-analysis assessing your progress towards these goals and objectives and, if appropriate, you will establish new goals to fit your progress. You will be given more information (guidelines to follow, etc.) on this as the semester progresses. **The average of these 2 written assignments** will account for **15%** of your final grade.

Written and Practical Assessments (15% of semester grade): You will be given several quizzes, major tests, and a final exam assessing your progress in the areas of technical knowledge, skills, and performance. Quiz grades will be averaged and will count as a major test grade. Major test grades will be averaged together and will account for **15%** of the final grade.

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100=A Excellent work
80-90=B Good work
70-80=C Average work
60-70=D Poor work
0-60=F Unacceptable work

Extra Credit:

Three points will be added to your final course average if you have **perfect attendance** for the semester. **Two points** will be awarded if you have only **one absence** and **one point for two absences**.

Class Format:

Class will consist of preparatory and/or dance conditioning exercises, a ballet barre warm-up, center exercises/combinations, and progressive exercises across the floor.

Academic Honesty:

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

Classroom Demeanor:

In compliance with the University Code of Conduct, students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please

turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or page before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, chewing gum, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using inappropriate language, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom:

Please make prior arrangements with instructor.

Religious Holidays:

Absences for observation of a religious holiday are excused, given prior notification to the instructor. You will then be allowed to make up any assignments.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>