

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
Department of Dance

COURSE SYLLABUS  
DNC 3333  
Intermediate Ballet Technique  
3 credit hours  
Fall 2017

Class Location: PAC, 254  
Class Meeting Times: M, T, Th, F: 1:00-2:30  
Instructor: Jennifer Pontius  
Office: GPAC 150K  
Contact Information: 936-294-1300  
[dnc\\_jkp@shsu.edu](mailto:dnc_jkp@shsu.edu); [Pontius@shsu.edu](mailto:Pontius@shsu.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 8-10 am, and Wednesdays 10-11:30 am. Also by appointment. If you email me, please indicate on the subject line of your email that you are requesting an appointment. Give me your preferred day and time, with alternatives. I will email with a confirmed appointment. If I don't respond in a reasonable length of time, i.e. by the next day, don't hesitate to send another email.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for dancers who have developed solid technical skills in ballet technique. Within the semester, those skills will be strengthened and expanded. Focus will be given to development of artistry in terms of epaulment, musicality, movement quality, and performance quality. Students will also be challenged to increase their ability to learn sequences quickly, manipulate those combinations ("reversing"), and retain the sequences from one class to another.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- I. The Baseline: At the start of the semester, the student is expected to have competency in the following areas:

- maintain functional alignment, both in stillness and in movement
- correctly work within individual's range of both turnout and extension
- correctly and consistently apply basic technical elements including plie, stretched legs and feet, releve, coordination of body parts
- demonstrate stability and increased competency in all the above elements in center work as well as at the barre
- demonstrate facility with basic jumps, turns, and connecting movements
- demonstrate basic musicality

--demonstrate understanding of ballet vocabulary (the “French terms”) through physical example

II. Within the semester, students will be challenged to:

- Demonstrate the integration of technique and artistry
- Improve classical line in port de bras, epaulment, and positions of the body
- Increase finesse in details such as stretched, “well behaved” feet, precise transitional movements, clear but expressive port de bras
- Improve the ability to learn, recall, and manipulate movement phrases deftly
- Refine the ability to incorporate specified details consistently, including timing, port de bras, transitions, and other details.
- Increase range of movement dynamics: metrical sensitivity; ability to perform within a broad range of speeds; perform legato, allegro, pizzicato, adagio; embody different movement qualities: sustained, staccato, syncopated, flowing, punctuated, etc.
- Increase strength, duration, and control in work on demi-pointe
- Demonstrate professional demeanor: be physically and mentally prepared to begin class; remain focused; retain a positive attitude; incorporate feedback given either personally or to the class; take appropriate advantage of opportunities to work on balances, stretch, and practice challenging movements; be respectful of peers and the teacher; take responsibility for one’s own progress.

## REQUIRED SUPPLIES (ATTIRE)

- \*For women: solid colored leotard, any style, and tights. All women should have at least one black leotard in good condition for possible jury, showings, guest teachers, etc.
- \*For men: fitted t-shirt, sans logos; white or black tights; dance belt
- \*For all: ballet slippers with elastics sewn, not tied.
- \*All dancers: No dangling, noisy, or potentially hazardous jewelry. Hair must be secured away from face, secured to the head in a bun if it is long. Please be considerate of others in the class: be clean and have laundered clothes, but do not asphyxiate others with your colognes and body fragrances. Antiperspirant is a favor to others in the room.
- \* In cold weather, dancers may wear reasonable overdress. Baggy shirts, sweatpants, hooded shirts, or other voluminous items are not acceptable, as they interfere with the instructor’s ability to evaluate your work and guide you appropriately. Please remove the extras once you are warm.

## TEXTBOOK

Familiarity with standard terminology of ballet is expected. If you do not have a working knowledge of ballet terms, get a dictionary of ballet terms. You can get inexpensive used

copies from Amazon or other sources, or spring for a truly beautiful guide to keep and cherish forever. I can advise on said items if needed.

## GRADING CRITERIA

### Grade Components

- 10% **Syllabus Quiz:** Monday, September 11. Read your syllabus!
- 10% **Paper:** Self-assessment in relation to baseline goals listed above, with personal goals for the semester. Due: Thursday, September 14.
- 20% **Attendance** of The Dance Gallery, on either October 27 or 28<sup>th</sup>\*.
- 10% **Paper:** reflection on The Dance Gallery. Due: Friday, November 3.
- 20% **Mid-term assessment by instructor** based on progress in part II of the objectives listed above.
- 10% **Paper:** Self-assessment of progress on part II objectives. Due: Between November 16-20—no earlier, no later.
- 20% **Final assessment by instructor** of achievement of these objectives.
- 10% **Professionalism:** being prepared for class, demonstrating a receptive attitude, retention of movement combinations, incorporation of feedback, proper decorum in class.

\*If you are on crew for The Dance Gallery, send me a verification email. If you cannot attend The Dance Gallery, send me a verification email. Documentation of your conflict will be required. We will agree on an alternative concert attendance

Your Grade for work in class reflects:

- Instructor's assessment of your level of achievement
- Instructor's perception of your consistent application of effort, focus, and progress
- Instructor's perception of your ability to incorporate feedback, whether given to you as an individual or to the class as a whole
- Composite of both technical and artistic merits

Students are reminded that they are always welcome to check with me regarding how they are doing in the class. Such discussions require an appointment in order to be productive.

## ATTENDANCE

In addition to recording attendance in my grade book, an attendance photo will be taken each class between the barre and center portions of class. 6 absences are allowed. Each absence beyond 6 will lower the final grade by 5 points.

As professional practice, and common courtesy, inform your instructors of absences. I prefer emails, as that provides documentation for both the student and the professor. If you know in advance that you will be absent, provide the dates as soon as possible.

Professional opportunities MAY be excused, but you should not assume that they are. There are three actions necessary for making a request for excuse.

1. Request form: the department has a new form for requesting excuse from classes. The form can be accessed online or in the dance office. It is to be submitted to the department chair (me) to be reviewed. If approved, the form should be distributed to all affected instructors in the department.
2. Email your instructor(s). Phrase the email in terms of a “request”, not merely an “announcement.” The email should be sent prior to the event.
3. Documentation, usually in the form of a program, must be submitted after the event.

In case of injuries, you are encouraged to be responsible in your treatment. Minor injuries that can be “danced around” still require therapy. RICE! See our sports trainer as needed. Clint Staub’s new hours in the Pilates studio are on Tuesdays, from 10-12, and 1-3 each week. If you are unable to dance, take notes during class, and give them to me afterwards. As you are rehabilitating, you may need to remind me of your limitations. In cases of injuries or illnesses significant enough to require an extensive period without dancing, the dancer will be advised to drop the class, or, as appropriate, take an incomplete. An incomplete grade must be made up in the following semester; if not, it turns into an F.

Communication is very important. Written communications (emails) provide documentation. This is a very good practice to adopt in all aspects of your life, whether it’s a receipt, a contract, or an agreement to do anything. Do not assume that anything you tell me in the hallway or in the studio when I’m getting ready to teach will be remembered. Get it in writing to protect yourself.

## **University Policies**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of

any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[Dean of Student's Office](#)

### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

### **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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center . 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 Counseling Center 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 Counseling Center . For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

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

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are available. The offices are located in Lee Drain North Annex, next to the Farrington Building. To contact the office, you may use any of the following modes: call 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786; e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); or visit the web, [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability))

### **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office