

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
College of Fine Arts and Communication  
Department of Theatre and Dance

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Autumn Semester 2017

## **Dance 203—Modern IIA** **Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:20**

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30-5:00 and Thursdays 11:30-1:30. Or by appointment.  
Final Exam Meeting Time: Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:45-4:45

### **Course Description:**

This course is an intermediate level modern dance technique class designed for the dance major or minor. It will put into physical practice conceptual ideas from DNCE 220-Movement Analysis & Theory. The course focuses on a deeper investigation of dynamic alignment and reinforces the concept of mobility and stability. Focus is placed on the application of Bartenieff Fundamentals to recognizable modern dance movements and further develop the technical aspects of modern dance embodiment.

### **Course Learning Outcomes—Students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate a dynamic use of the body's weight as it relates to the concept of mobility/stability.
- Consistently release the full weight of the body into and out of the floor with core support and fluidity.
- Use an aligned and supported body to dance with ease.
- Use the fluid relationship of the body's connections, including the breath, to itself and to space—Dynamic Alignment
- Mobilize and propel the body through space with quick shifts of weight and momentum.
- Quickly learn and retain movement phrases and material.
- Recognize and apply the concepts of time, space, and effort—including rhythm, shape, flow, phrasing and dynamics to one's own dancing.
- Use conceptual movement analysis principles as a base for physical exploration.

### **These course learning outcomes relate to the following Program Learning Outcomes:**

- Achieve full physical expression
  - Identify and Demonstrate the fundamental principles of dance technique.
  - Apply the fundamental principles of dance technique and Re-evaluate one's approach to technique.
  - Demonstrate technical and stylistic range.
  - Analyze new methods to training at a high level.
  - Develop a personal approach to physical expression.
- Achieve anatomical efficiency
  - Identify and Use fundamental knowledge of the body to modify inefficient habitual patterning.
  - Employ optimal anatomical alignment to support injury-free dancing.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Attendance**

I expect you to come to class on time, to be dressed properly, and be ready to participate fully in class. It is the dance program policy to allow no more than two (2) absences. Six (6) absences result in a failing grade. Frequent tardiness will not be tolerated and will lower your grade. Two (2) tardies will be counted as one (1) absence. Each additional absence will lower your grade a full letter grade (A to B, etc.). You are required to contact me prior to class either by email or phone if you are going to be absent. You are responsible for keeping track of your number of absences. Make-up classes are not allowed.

#### **Participation**

You are expected to dress appropriately (see below) and actively participate in the full class session. You should take class with a positive and healthy attitude toward learning and investigating dance while respecting each other's abilities and limitations.

### **Attending but not participating**

If you are well enough to attend but cannot participate (injury or noninfectious illness), you can receive attendance credit by observing the full class and submitting your written observations to me at the end of class. Address what you discovered by observing class and how you will apply your discoveries to your work. If you do not submit your observations directly to me at the end of class, your observation will not count and you will be marked absent. You may observe class two (2) times only before it may affect your grade.

### **Receiving and Working with Responses, Suggestions and Additions**

In dance, a substantial portion of learning is founded in reconsidering and refining your anatomical, kinesthetic, mental, and artistic/emotional approach to the work. Receiving responses and suggestions about your work are essential aspects of your development and training. Responses, suggestions and additions are intended for each student's improvement, and it's always possible to listen for meaningful information offered to the class group and other individual dancers. This aspect of training is a dialog. Responses, suggestions and additions are intended to bring you back on task or to take you deeper and further into the work at hand.

### **Outside of Class Performance Attendance Requirements**

Students are required to attend all Department of Theatre & Dance productions:

- *Student Body* (NFAC Studio Theatre), October 13-15, 18-21
- *Spamalot* (NFAC Jenkins Theatre), November 10-12, 15-18
- *Afterimages 2017* (NFAC Studio Theatre), December 7-10
  - *Afterimages Unplugged* (NFAC 130), October 21-22

Additional Performances this semester include:

- *Nutcracker Suite* (Sentry Theater @1800) Nov. 11-12 7:30pm/2:00pm
- *Dance for Hope* (Sentry Theater @1800), Sept. 22-23 7:30pm

Writing assignments may be assigned to performances. Details will be given as each performance approaches.

Performance Calendar link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance/Pages/Productions/default.aspx>

Box office: [http://uwsptickets.universitytickets.com/user\\_pages/event\\_listings.asp](http://uwsptickets.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event_listings.asp)

### **Writing**

- Reflective Writing—
  - Throughout the semester, you will be asked to respond via D2L discussions to prompts about concepts and ideas from class.
  - You will submit a set of movement goals for the class.
  - There is no formal mid-semester assessment for DNCE 203.
  - Your mid-semester writing will address your current work within the framework of movement standards established by the dance program.
  - Your final writing will assess your physical, intellectual, and artistic growth throughout the semester.

### **Course Information:**

#### **Dressing to work in class**

As dancers, our work together is often in close proximity. It is important that you bathe daily, and wear a fresh change of clothes to class. Dress for class in a way that does not hinder your movement or my ability to see your movement clearly. You should wear dance attire that allows for full range of motion—leotards, tights, leggings, and/or an additional layer that can be removed as the class progresses. I prefer attire without graphics or lettering. Men should wear a dance belt. Modern dance is historically performed and studied barefoot. However, in certain circumstances, socks may be acceptable. Secure your hair neatly so that it does not distract from your work in class. Remove neck and wrist jewelry and dangling earrings.

#### **Dressing Rooms**

Dancers should use NFAC 134 (male) and NFAC 135 (female) locker rooms to dress for class. Enter the studio dressed and ready to go. Lockers are provided for dance program majors and minors. The dance program expects all students to maintain the dressing rooms as part of our professional spaces by securing all personal belongings in your locker, and taking home and laundering worn dance clothes each week. So that our custodial staff can thoroughly clean, all belongings must be put away and cleared at the end of each day. Anything left on the floor will be moved to the lost and found. Students provide their own padlock. Be diligent about locking your lockers. The dance program cannot be responsible for thefts. I will give out the dressing room codes at the beginning of the semester.

### **Floor Surfaces, Water, Food**

To protect our professional floor surfaces, please do not wear body lotion or powder to class. These come off on the floor surfaces and make the floors slippery. They are also difficult to remove. Only water, in sealed bottles, is allowed in the dance studios. No beverages in open containers or food is allowed in either studio. Street shoes are not allowed in the dance program studios.

### **Dance Studio Use**

Only dance majors and minors may reserve the NFAC dance studios. The weekly studio schedules are posted on the NFAC 136A warm-up area bulletin. You may reserve a maximum of two 90-minute rehearsal blocks/week. Studios are equipped with IPOD connection chords are provided for your use during rehearsals.

### **Ongoing or Previous Injuries and Self Care**

As dancers, it is essential that you develop a clear plan to make whole food nutrition, hydration, and a consistently adequate amount of time for rest and recuperation your top priorities. It is your responsibility to notify me of any injury or health issue that may affect your class work.

### **Pace and Balance – Important Considerations**

As dancers, you work deeply on several levels. In order to develop and sustain a holistic approach to your training and artistry it is important to consider the following: What do you need in order to successfully pace and balance your physical and academic work? How deeply are you aware of the role that daily rest, recuperation, and whole food nutrition plays? What ways can you prioritize these into your daily/weekly planning?

The dance program recommends that all dancers have these items on hand:

- Arnica gel or cream for bruises and strains (Biofreeze gel available at the UWSP Cardio Center; and Arnica gel available at the Stevens Point Area Coop or Kmart).
- An ice pack.

If you are injured either inside or outside of class it is essential to STOP what you are doing immediately and take care of your body. Immediate self-care for strains or sprains must include **Rest | Ice | Compression | Elevation**

Students who require ice or heat therapy for an existing injury should supply their own reusable ice/heating packs. For injury evaluation, and additional therapy needs, dance program students are encouraged to make an appointment to meet with dance program Athletic Trainers. See NFAC 136A warm up bulletin for fall semester evaluation hours and sign up. AT evaluation appointments meet in Room, 140A.

If you will miss two (2) or more classes due to an injury or illness you must submit all of the following, in writing, to the DNCE 203 D2L **Wellness Dropbox**. This dropbox is a place for you to confidentially record detail about any injury or illness you sustain throughout the semester that prevents you from fully participating in class.

1. Date and specific description of injury or illness
2. Physician, Chiropractor, Physical Therapist, Athletic Trainer and/or other medical professional report and specific diagnosis
3. Specific recommended follow up care, for example: icing, therapeutic exercises (number or repetitions, frequency, intensity), footwear, etc.
4. How thoroughly and consistently are you fulfilling these recommendations?
5. Specific timeline to recovery and your return to full dance participation

You are required to submit weekly updates each Sunday by 11:59 p.m. to this dropbox until such time as you're able to return to full physical participation. Your failure to submit weekly updates will result in a lowered grade.

***If you sustain an injury or illness or, if other circumstances prevent you from full class participation for four (4) or more consecutive or combined weeks, the dance faculty will evaluate your circumstances and will likely suggest that you drop the course and register to take it when you are able to complete the required work.***

### Email

You are responsible for the information sent to your UWSP email, and to check your UWSP email daily for class updates and announcements. Class information will also be posted on D2L. Check SMOD and the Department of Theatre & Dance Facebook page, and the NFAC dance program bulletin boards for additional performance listings and announcements.

### UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations have been developed for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the [Rights and Responsibilities document](#), and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Chapter 14.

The [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the [Disability Services Office](#) and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way I can. For more information, please visit the Disability Services Office, located on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall.

### Evaluation and Grading:

#### D2L and Submitting Assignments

The class will use Desire to Learn (D2L), UWSP's online classroom, to submit and archive course assignments. Use your UWSP password to login from the myPoint page. All assignments must be submitted completely and on time. **I do not accept late assignments.** Failing to submit an assignment by the due date will result in zero credit for that assignment.

#### Personal Progress/Improvement (40%)

##### Effort, Participation, Attitude (40%)

Consistent attendance in class provides the greatest opportunity for growth and development in physical practice. While in class, student attentiveness, motivation, positive attitude, promptness, commitment, concentration and focus, respect of instructor and peers, willingness to participate in improvisational exercises, application of corrections, clarity of body knowledge, and demonstrated improvement in physical practices will be considered in final grading. An active engagement in the class and an eagerness to try new things is essential for a successful, exciting, and enjoyable experience.

#### Writing (20%)

Your bi-monthly prompt responses should be posted to the D2L Discussion Tab by Friday at 5:00pm. Reflective and assessment writing is due to the D2L dropbox by 11:00am (before class) on the due date listed below.

**Goals: 9/11**

**Mid-Semester: 10/16**

**Afterimages: 12/13**

**Final: 12/21**

**To earn the grade A:** You demonstrate both a deep physical and intellectual competency of the material covered and embody that work in your performance throughout the semester. You whole heartedly engage in exploring new ideas, concepts, movement vocabulary and sequences. You fully risk, try, and develop yourself physically, mentally, and artistically. You attend and actively participated in class by consistently and thoroughly warming-up and cooling down; you consistently and accurately practice course material outside of class. You understand and complete all assignments excellently. You consistently prepare for class and show strong and consistent improvement throughout the semester. The grade of "A" is excellent.

**To earn the grade B:** You demonstrate strong physical and intellectual competency of the material covered and embody that work in your performance throughout the semester. You fully engage in exploring new ideas, concepts, movement vocabulary and sequences. You risk, try, and develop yourself physically, mentally, and artistically, yet you are unable to clarify some of your smaller anatomical or technical problems. You understand and complete all assignments well. You attend and actively participate in class but are not consistent and/or thorough in warming-up, cooling down, and practicing course material. You are present during class and actively participate to the best of your abilities, showing good improvement throughout the semester. The grade of "B" is very good: above average improvement.

**To earn the grade C:** You demonstrate limited physical and intellectual competency of the material covered but do not embody that work in your performance throughout the semester. Your engagement in exploring new ideas, concepts, movement vocabulary and sequences is inconsistent. You lack the ability and/or desire to risk, try, and develop yourself physically, mentally, and artistically. You attend and participate in class and make an effort to complete requirements. Your preparation, including warming up, cooling down, and practicing course material, is inconsistent and/or underdeveloped. You improve enough to fulfill the minimum requirements. The grade of “C” is average.

**To earn the grade D:** You do not demonstrate a physical and intellectual competency of the material covered. Your engagement in exploring new ideas, concepts, movement vocabulary and sequences is lacking. You demonstrate no desire to risk, try, and develop yourself physically, mentally, and artistically. You do not complete the assignments and are unable to achieve the requirements. The “D” grade reflects the minimal amount of effort/improvement to receive a passing grade.

**To earn the grade F:** Your attendance is inconsistent, or you missed 6 classes, and you do not participate or engage in class in order to develop yourself physically, mentally, and artistically. No improvement was shown.

### Grading

Personal Progress, Improvement	40%
Effort, Participation, Attitude	40%
Writing Assignments/Responses	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

More than two (2) absences will immediately lower your overall grade.

### Grading Scale:

A = 93-100	B+ = 89-88	C+ = 79-78	D+ = 69-68
A- = 92-90	B = 87-83	C = 77-73	D = 67-60
	B- = 82-80	C- = 77-70	F = 59-