

Utah Valley University
Department of Dance
Intermediate Modern Dance
DANC 141R.001
Fall 2023

Instructor: Jeff Jacobs
Jeff.Jacobs@uvu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
MW 8:00 - 9:20am & F 8:00-8:50am
Room: RL 153C

Course Description

This is an intermediate course to give students continued experience in modern/contemporary dance technique. Students will be given the opportunity to explore and improve their technical, performance, and improvisational skills. The course will emphasize strength, flexibility, core support, coordination, and movement expression. Dance material will be presented at a moderate pace to develop skill in observing and mastering clarity of movement and sequences. An emphasis on injury prevention through proper technique will be stressed.

Course Objectives

To successfully complete this course the student will:

- Commit to active and respectful participation of each class.
- Grok artistic dance principles like musicality, improvisation, and effort.
- Show an understanding of correct alignment, coordination, and bio-mechanical efficiency.
- Develop a personal performance style.
- Be open to self-reflection and constructive criticism.

Required Materials

- Appropriate dance attire. Clothing should be form fitting enough for the instructor to judge alignment and should allow for a wide range of motion. Dancers will dance barefoot, but some accommodation for socks and dance footwear may be made.
- Water bottle.
- Smartphone or other device to record sequences/midterm for review.

Requirements:

60% Attendance/Participation:

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the course. Students are allowed 3 absences that will not affect their overall grade. Each absence beyond 3 will negatively impact your grade by automatically dropping the grade 1/3 of a step (A to A-). **It is UVU policy that in participation-based classes, 80% attendance is required in order to pass the class. Missing more than 8 classes will result in a failing grade.** Three tardies or early departures will count as an absence. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the teacher after class the day of the tardy to make sure the absence has been changed to a tardy. Students will be allowed observation days, but those will be counted as an absence. If a student experiences an “extenuating circumstance” that results in absences exceeding 20% of the total class periods, they **may** be eligible for an “Incomplete.” The term “extenuating circumstances” includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes (usually more than five consecutive class days); (2) a death in the immediate family; (3) change in work schedule as required by employer; or (4) other emergencies deemed acceptable by the instructor. To learn more about an “Incomplete,” visit

<https://www.uvu.edu/catalog/current/policies-requirements/academic-policies-and-standards.html>. Please consult your instructor to discuss the possibility of an "Incomplete."

Participation is based on the individual's psychophysical presence and commitment to class experiences, discussions, and improvisation exercises. Based on the nature of the course, full participation and a diligent work ethic are required.

10% Skill/Improvement

While the main objective of the course is to expose students to the joy of modern dance, students will need to demonstrate technical mastery of basic skills and/or growth to receive full marks.

10% Concert Attendance/Reflection

Students are required to attend a modern dance concert. After attending the concert, students will write a brief reflection on the concert and submit it through Canvas. Full details of the assignment will be posted on Canvas.

10% Midterm:

Students will perform a movement phrase learned in class and be evaluated on technique and artistry. Additionally, the student will be recorded, watch themselves on video, and submit a concise evaluation of their performance through Canvas.

Midterm October 16th, Evaluation Due October 18th.

10% Final:

Students will perform a movement combination that demonstrates a mastery of concepts presented during the semester. Final December 11th 7:00 - 8:50am.

Grading Scale for the Course

94-100% = A

90-93% = A-

87-89% = B+

84-86% = B

80-83% = B-

77-79% = C+

74-76% = C

70-73% = C-

67-69% = D+

65-66% = D

Below 65% = E

Commitment to You

UVU is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse learning environment. In this class, we acknowledge our differences and accept our diversity in gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture as a strength. We strive to foster equity and to maximize respect and fairness. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to talk about any suggestions and/or concerns. If that feels uncomfortable to you, you can also contact the [Inclusion and Diversity Committee](#) to ask for help and support.

Identity

I will gladly honor your request to address you by your name and pronoun, if our records don't reflect so. Please advise me of this early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. If you would like additional assistance regarding communication about your name or pronoun, please contact LGBTQ Student Services at lgbt@uvu.edu or 801-863-8885.

Land Acknowledgment

Utah Valley University acknowledges that we gather on land sacred to all Indigenous people who came before us in this vast crossroads region. The University is committed to working in partnership – as enacted through education and community activities – with Utah's Native Nations comprising: the San Juan Southern Paiute, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Uintah & Ouray Reservation of the Northern Ute, Skull Valley Goshute, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute – White Mesa Community, and urban Indian communities. We recognize these Native Nations and their continued connections with traditional homelands, mountain, rivers, and lakes, as well as their sovereign relationships with state and federal governments. We honor their collective memory and continued physical and spiritual presence. We revere their resilience and example in preserving their connections to the Creator and to all their relations, now and in the future.

With this statement comes responsibility and accountability. We resolve to follow up with actionable items to make the School of the Arts at UVU and The Noorda Center for the Performing Arts an inclusive, equitable, and just space for all. There is much work to be done, and we are committed to putting these words into practice.

Physical Contact

Participation in movement classes regularly utilizes human contact as a mode of instruction and feedback. In addition to demonstration and verbal instruction, the use of physical contact may be employed as a method of communicating kinesthetic and proprioceptive information, lines of energy, body awareness and connection. If you prefer to not receive touch as a means of learning—either for the entire semester or on any given day—it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor before class. Your grade will not be affected by this choice.

Mental Health and Wellness

As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. To learn more about Utah Valley University's Mental Health Services, please visit <https://www.uvu.edu/studenthealth/psych/>. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at <https://988lifeline.org/>.

Attention Students with Disabilities

Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the UVU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the OAS office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu or text 385-208-2677.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges a wide range of faiths and religions as part of our student body, and as such provides accommodations for students. Religious belief includes the student's faith or

conscience as well as the student's participation in an organized activity conducted under the auspices of the student's religious tradition or religious organization. The accommodations include reasonable student absences from scheduled examinations or academic requirements if they create an undue hardship for sincerely held religious beliefs. For this to occur, the student must provide a written notice to the instructor of the course for which the student seeks said accommodation prior to the event.

The UVU campus has a place for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of individual religious expression as is described at <https://www.uvu.edu/ethics/reflectioncenter/>
Documents: [Guidelines For the Accommodation of Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs](#) and [Practices Student Religious Accommodation Request Form](#)

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.