



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: DANC

Course Title: Ballet Choreography

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 3340_001

Credits: 2

Course Description

For dance majors desiring ballet emphasis. Explores the choreographic process using ballet vocabulary as a framework. Includes the creation of student works. Examines plot, character, and theme as part of the creative process

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Christa St. John, Assistant Professor

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Use ballet technique as a tool to express choreographic ideas
 - 2 - Define how plot, character, and pantomime are part of the creative process
 - 3 - Apply choreographic devices and forms
 - 4 - Create movement that aligns elements of the choreographic process (time, space, music, dynamics, and expression) with choreographic intent
 - 5 - Participate in analytical discussion with respect to choreographic concepts
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Course Materials and Texts

- A device for playing music and for recording choreography (e.g., smart phone, tablet, video camera, etc.). Rentals are available through UVU's Library
- Dance attire
- Throughout the semester students will view classic and contemporary ballet works
- There is no textbook required for this course

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Participation (20%):

Students earn participation credit by:

- Engaging in class activities
- Contributing to class discussions
- Participating in the Critical Response Process

Written Assignments (30%):

Throughout the semester students will be assigned various reading, writing, and video-viewing assignments. Students will submit a choreographic prospectus and abstract for each major choreographic project.

Choreographic Works (50%):

Works of choreography will be created and shown throughout the semester including three major choreographic projects. Students will be expected to hold some rehearsals outside of class time.

Late work

- In-class, participation-based assignments and activities may not be made up unless the student cleared the absence with the instructor, via email, prior to the class period that will be missed. If the student is not in class for the assignment/activity they will receive a zero.
- Grades for written assignments will be reduced by 10% per 24-hour period after the deadline.
- Choreographic works submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and will earn an incomplete.

UVU Grading Scale

A = 93.6 % - 100%

A- = 90% - 93.5%

B+ = 86.6% - 89.9%

B = 83.6% - 86.5%

B- = 80% - 83.5%

C+ = 76.6% - 79.9%

C = 73.6% - 76.5%

C- = 70% - 73.5%

D+ = 66.6% - 69.9%

D = 63.6% - 66.5%

D- = 60% - 63.5%

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Readings are excerpted from the following texts and journals:

-*Art and Fear*, David Bayles & Ted Orland

-*A Ballet Maker's Handbook*, Joan Lawson
-*Dance Composition*, Jacqueline Smith-Autard
-*A Map of Making Dances*, Stuart Hodes
-*Critique Is Creative: The Critical Response Process® in Theory and Action*, Liz Lerman
-“Drivers and levels of creative leadership: an examination of choreographers as directive and integrative leaders,” *Innovation: Organization and Management*, Celine Abecassis-Moedas and Lucy L. Gilson

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

The semester is divided into three units:

Unit 1: Narrative Ballet

Students study classic and contemporary narrative ballet works, ballet choreographers, and traditional ballet pantomime. The unit culminates in the creation of a short narrative ballet of original design. Students will choreograph and present a short narrative work using what they have learned about traditional ballet pantomime and the elements of plot and character. They are also introduced to creating a choreographic prospectus and abstract as well as to Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process.

Unit 2: Corps de Ballet – Multiple Bodies in Space

Students study ballet choreographers' use of the *corps de ballet* and analyze choreographic tools and devices. The unit culminates in students creating their own short corps de ballet work using multiple dancers. They also create a choreographic prospectus and abstract as well as participate in analysis and feedback for their own work and their peers using Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process.

Unit 3: Ballet for Film

Students are introduced to concepts pertaining to translating ballet to film. The unit culminates in students creating their own film using ballet technique and filmmaking as means of expression. They also create a choreographic prospectus and abstract as well as participate in analysis and feedback for their own work and their peers using Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you. The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;

- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHServices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

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.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.