

F2021 DANC 234: INTERMEDIATE BALLET

T/TH 9:30-11am, PAC #126

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: M/W 11am-1pm

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To book an appointment:

<https://www.picktime.com/520d982a-310f-4e47-8947-62a41069b6b2>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students emerging to the intermediate level with the potential to further their technical skills to a wider range within the ballet discipline. Technique, terminology, and performance are strongly emphasized, as students will be provided with technically challenging material to expand their movement capabilities and to aid in their artistic growth as performers. This class will combine intermediate-level barre, center floor exercises, locomotor work, and movement phrasing – all with an emphasis on the anatomy that governs ballet mechanics. Discussions will take place, theorizing about the principles of movement, the fundamentals of practice and performance techniques, and the historical elements that landscape ballet. Additional class work consists of self-assessments, attendance to concert dance performances, and writing a critique essay.

Pre-requisite: DANC110 Beginning Ballet or equivalent prior training.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students are provided with the opportunity to:

- explore and discover the full potential of ability under the guidance of the faculty,
- preserve a grand appreciation of dance as an art form,
- advance and further develop technical, creative, and critical thinking capacities pertaining to movement,
- increase body awareness, strength, and proper anatomical alignment as it serves in the technique,
- have a clearer sense of musicality through time and qualitative dynamics,
- demonstrate a personal ownership of movement,
- practice professionalism (self-responsibility, positive/inquisitive attitude, respect toward others, versatility, awareness, and investigation of individual strengths and weaknesses),
- interact with other dancers, creating a shared experience of class work,
- participate in the process of giving, receiving, and incorporating feedback from peers and the faculty,
- critically evaluate in writing movement ideas as well as self-assess personal development.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- apply effective technical skills in a variety of movement material,

- understand components of proper technical use of the body in anatomically sound application of movement,
- demonstrate an improved ability in using the body as an instrument of artistic expression,
- develop a personal movement style in performance of advanced sequences of movement,
- demonstrate the ability to learn and retain more complex movement sequences in a variety of technical styles,
- demonstrate movement with a sensitivity to performance and full-bodied commitment,
- understand the importance of self-discipline and self-motivation in the continual effort to improve individual performance and enhanced satisfaction in dance as a performing art form,
- recognize, discuss, and critically appraise ballet and its relationship to the other dance forms, including its evolution into the twenty-first century,
- analyze and discuss personal artistic and technical growth through instructor feedback and self-assessment,
- comprehend the origins of ballet and its history,
- understand the field of dance by critically analyzing a live concert dance performance in a critique essay,
- apply skills learned to attend professional auditions with confidence.

ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS/GRADING/EVALUATION

(60%) – Attendance/participation: (see Attendance Policy below for details)

(30%) – Midterm and final exam: a practical and written exam based on class material and discussions.

(5%) – Assignments: self-assessments provided in class.

(5%) – Performance attendance and paper: students are required to attend the Student Choreographers' Concert and write a one-page overview paper. NOTE: Dance majors and minors are required to attend all Department of Theatre and Dance productions. It will be due on the final day of class at midnight. Late essays will not be accepted. Students performing in performances can include their experiences as a participant as well as what they observed behind the scenes.

TEXTS/COURSE MATERIALS

No text is required for this course. All written materials for this course are on cyndance.org and/or Moodle.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Students are expected to arrive on time (**10 minutes early**), dressed, and mentally/physically prepared for class.
- Participation is not permitted if 10 minutes late and a written observation is required.
- A "written observation" is defined as writing down each exercise of the class as well as finding at least one precaution to consider while it is executed. A copy of the notes is sent to me by email (dufaulc@potsdam.edu) at the end of that class. Study the notes of the written observation and apply it to the following class.
- Two (2) late arrivals will result in one (1) absence.
- Students must email the instructor before the class about an absence. If a student is required by the college to quarantine (factual documentation is required), email the instructor before class and include quarantine dates. Supplemental work will be assigned to those students. Two (2) late arrivals will result in one (1) absence.

- Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences for the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will lower the final letter grade by one (1) grade-point as implemented by the Department of Theatre and Dance Attendance Policy.
- Qualified excused absences include: religious holy days (advanced notice is required); family emergencies (contact instructor ASAP by e-mail if traveling out of town and factual documentation of the emergency is required upon return); serious illness or medical emergencies (factual documentation/doctor's note is required upon return); a university sponsored event such as band trips, sports team events, school conferences, etc. (advanced notice is required and documentation signed by the school coordinator is required). Students must provide appropriate documentation for any additional University sanctioned event for it to be excused.
- Students are responsible for missed work due to excused absences. Make-up classes are not offered. Make-up work is permissible ONLY for excused absences, and it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor.

ATTIRE

This course has a required dress code. Each class, students are expected to be dressed in the appropriate dance attire, as listed below, and in a neat and clean manner.

Basic Dress Code Example:

- dark-toned leotard, dark-toned tights, leggings, fitted joggers, fitted shorts, or short ballet skirts, dark-toned or white fitted crop-top, tank or t-shirt (tucked in), appropriate undergarment support (dance or sports bra, dance or sports belt, or compression shorts), skin-toned ballet shoes (black, white, or pink are also excepted), and a mask (for the first two weeks, and until further notified).

Additional Dress Code Information:

- hair must be worn off the neckline and away from the face for better alignment assessment (example – a bun),
- warm-up clothing will be allowed at the teacher's discretion (dark-toned fitted sweatshirts or "dance" sweaters, dark-toned fitted pants, or dark-toned leg warmers) – no loose or baggy clothes (example – oversized t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, or pants)
- personal hygiene and wearing clean clothing must be observed out of respect to all,
- no excessive wearing of perfume/cologne out of the wellbeing of all,
- no jewelry, except small, studded earrings – dangling earrings, hoops, large rings, watches, bracelets, and necklaces are **strictly forbidden** for the safety of all,
- if eyeglasses are needed, please attach with a sports strap – contact lenses are recommended,
- no street shoes in the studio at any time and all dance shoes worn in the studio may not be worn outside.

COURSE FORMAT

This in-person course will be taught during class time in the studio. Please refer to the Studio Safety Guidelines before entering the studio on the first day of class.

STUDIO SAFETY GUIDELINES

Information about safety facts and policies related to SUNY Potsdam:

- [SUNY Potsdam Studio Safety Guidelines-COVID-19](#)
- SUNY Potsdam BEAR COVID-19 Pledge: <https://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/inline-files/Covidsocialcontract.pdf>

BASIC RULES & REGULATIONS

No gum, food, or beverages are permitted in the dance studios/theatres, except water in an enclosed container. Turn off/mute and pack away your cell phone, iWatch, and any other electronic devices before class begins. Discussing topic-related observations are welcomed in class, but unrelated side conversations are discouraged.

SUNY POTSDAM POLICIES & RESOURCES

- [ACADEMIC-HONOR CODE](#)
- [ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY](#)
- [ACCOMIDATIVE SERVICES](#)
- [COMPUTING AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES](#)
- [CAMPUS LIBRARY](#)
- [PRIVACY POLICY](#)
- [STUDENT GRIEVANCES](#)

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.