

**THEA 2122-101 Dance for the Theatre: Jazz  
SYLLABUS**

Midwestern State University—Fall 2021

TTh 12:30pm-1:50pm

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

Email: [morgan.mallory@msutexas.edu](mailto:morgan.mallory@msutexas.edu)

Office Hours can be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students will practice fundamental principles, skills, and vocabulary of beginning jazz dance technique. Each class will begin with a warm-up and progress to movement combinations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To provide the student with an understanding and appreciation of the art of jazz and tap dance. Students will be able to:

1. learn to warm up and prepare the body for dance activities;
2. develop skills necessary of a beginning dancer;
3. demonstrate the necessary skills to advance in dance technique;
4. develop critical thinking skills for discussion and executing dance in regards to theatrical performance;
5. rehearse and perform a number of movement combinations demonstrating a fundamental understanding of dance technique.

**TEXTS:** No textbooks are required for this class. However, proper dance shoes ARE REQUIRED and will be needed for class. You have some options for purchasing shoes—either ballet slippers or jazz shoes AND tapshoes are required. The shoe must cover BOTH your toe and your heel.

Cheap places to purchase include: [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com) and [www.dancewearsolutions.com](http://www.dancewearsolutions.com)

**ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS:** This is a participation-based class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The work for this course primarily occurs during class time and cannot be made up outside of class. Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to a dance class; please arrive on time, ready to dance. There are 3 absences allowed for both excused instances and illness. After the 3 allowed absences, a student's grade will drop by one full letter grade. For example, if a student has obtained an overall grade of B+ at the end of the semester, but has 4 absences, the student's grade will be adjusted to a C+. If you are absent or late, the following penalties apply:

<u>Attendance Penalty Scale</u>		<u>Lateness</u>
1-3 absences	no penalty	Late—5 points
4 absences	full grade drop	Really late (over 25 minutes)—10 points
5 absences	two grades dropped, etc	More than ½ the class—entire absence

If students are sick/quarantining, they can still receive class credit/attendance points by attending the synchronous class via Zoom. They will be required to be present, dressed, have their camera on during the whole class period, and to do all exercises. Students MUST arrange for online classes 24 hours in advance with their instructor. Classes will NOT be recorded for students to view at any time; the student must be present for the class period as scheduled by the university. The Zoom link for class attendance will be given when requested by the student.

I DO NOT accept late work. If you have an excused absence, the homework must be turned in via email or a classmate the day it is due, NO exceptions. If you are set to perform on a day you are missing due to an excused absence, you must exchange with a peer and it must be preapproved BEFORE the day of performance.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Have fun, be engaged, participate fully to develop your skills and imagination, and gain to insight about yourself. Participation will be graded on attitude, effort, execution of movement, improvement, and classroom discipline and conduct. Class shall follow standards of etiquette typical for the dance discipline by: demonstrating respect for instructors and fellow students, refraining from talking during organized exercises, and not chewing gum.

2. **PROPER ATTIRE:** Proper attire is mandatory for this class. You must select dancewear that clearly reveals the outline and placement of the body. Sweatpants and snug fitting t-shirts are acceptable for male students. Sweatpants, long leggings, leotards, tights are acceptable for women. **NO BAGGY CLOTHES, JEWELRY, SHORTS** above the knee or **HATS**. Proper shoes for each genre are required. Food or drink is NOT allowed in the studio. A water bottle is welcome and encouraged.

3. **PRODUCTIONS:** Attend the one theatrical performance (*Cloud 9* or *Men on Boats*) and write a critique—this is equal to one absence. These critiques will be based on guidelines provided by the instructor. These must be **TYPED, EDITED** and 2 pages in length in Standard English with an introduction and conclusion. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating will be limited for these productions; please ensure you reserve your tickets early.

4. **SKILLS TESTS:** Rehearse and present movement combinations, as assigned by the instructor. These will be taught in class and will span different styles of dance. Each performance will be taped and discussed with the student (as requested), both at midterm and during the final weeks of class. Students will also be assigned a final choreography based assignment.

**GRADING:** Grading will be out of a total of 100 points, based on the course requirements outlined above. You could at any time calculate your grade if you are organized and keep all of your assignments (which is a GREAT idea!)

Breakdown is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	65%
SKILLS TESTS AND EVALUATION	35%

Grading Scale

100-93.4	A	83.3-80.0	B-	69.9-66.7	D+
93.3-90.0	A-	79.9-76.7	C+	66.6-63.4	D
89.9-86.7	B+	76.6-73.4	C	63.3-60.0	D-
86.6-83.4	B	73.3-70.0	C-	Below 60.0	F

**GENERAL NOTES:**

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread

Some other general class rules include:

1. You must be physically able to handle the demands of dance as a condition of taking this course. If you cannot meet these demands, the best option would be to drop the class. If you do not comply, it is a matter of conduct and will affect your grade.
2. NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING...not even on silent!
3. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.
4. When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.

Because this is a dance course, it carries the expectation that students should be active participants in their coursework. Participation is the only way to meet the objectives of this course. Attendance is MANDATORY.

This course has considerable in-class participation in the movement and theory processes taught in the classroom, attendance is critical for learning. The content of each class builds on the content covered in the prior class. Students who are absent will be expected to proactively seek out and understand the information covered in class. All material may be included in the evaluation of the student whether absent or not.

There is no distinction in the reason for absences including notes from a doctor, injury, illness, or skipping class etc. An absence is an absence unless the student is acting as an official representative of the University and provided prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

Three non-official absences are allowed to accommodate students who must miss class due to illness, funerals, etc. Students may have one observation day in class.

Please Note: Due to the nature of this course, you will be working closely with other students and myself. Some exercises and techniques require physical contact. If you are uncomfortable at anytime with the activities, please inform me immediately and all reasonable accommodations will be made.

We will be listening to different types of music throughout our course. Please let the instructor know if you have any restrictions of music due to religion or personal standards.

#### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

#### Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may record performances, from time to time, on a cell phone for legitimate class reasons. Student recording of the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, unless it is done by the professor for grading purposes, or can be done by obtaining written consent by the instructor. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

#### Student Handbook

##### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

#### Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

#### College Policies

##### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear

yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin or form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

#### Safe Zone Statement

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being –regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.