

**THEA 4153-201 Dance for Theatre: Choreography
SYLLABUS**

Midwestern State University—Spring 2023

TTh 12:30pm-1:50pm

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

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Office Hours are MWF from 10-11 and TTh from 11-12:30p, office hours can also be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “To dance is to be out of yourself, larger, more powerful, more beautiful. This is power; it is glory on earth, and it is yours for the taking.” *Agnes de Mille*
Come learn how to effectively communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings through dance! This course will help the student develop meaningful concepts of self, human relationships, and physical environments through spatial awareness and creative movement. Students will practice fundamental principles, skills, and vocabulary of dance technique. Each class will begin with a warm-up and progress to movement combinations as needed. Class will culminate in a student-created dance concert for the public.

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

1. learn to visualize and execute original ideas via dance;
2. develop skills necessary of a teacher and choreographer;
3. demonstrate the necessary skills to further advance in dance technique;
4. develop critical thinking skills for discussion and executing dance;
5. rehearse and perform a number of their own realization for a concert.

TEXTS: No text is 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 are required. Socks do not count as shoes.

Cheap places to purchase include:

www.discountdance.com and 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:

Attendance Penalty Scale

1-3 absences no penalty
4 absences full grade drop
5 absences two grades dropped, etc.

Lateness

Late – 5 points
Really late (over 25 minutes) – 10 points
More than ½ of class – whole class

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, long leggings, leotards, tights, snug-fitting tee-shirts are acceptable for student wear. **NO BAGGY CLOTHES, JEWELRY, SHORTS** above the knee or **HATS**. Remember that shoes are required. Food or drink is **NOT** allowed in the studio. A water bottle is welcome and encouraged.

3. **HISTORY COMPONENT:** In pairs, students will pick a dance practitioner and research their specific style and contribution to dance. Students then prepare a short combination to teach to the class based on this style. A five-page paper will also be required (one paper per pair).

4. **ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY:** Prepare, cast, create, stage, and present an original choreography number at the spring dance concert. There are many facets to this assignment, so make sure to keep up with due dates as they are assigned.

GRADING: Grading will be out of a total of 1000 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	600 points
OTHER PROJECTS	400 points
-Historical Figure Project	200 pts
-Choreography (all facets)	200 pts

Grading Scale

1000-934	A	833-800	B-	699-667	D+
933-900	A-	799-767	C+	666-634	D
899-867	B+	766-734	C	633-600	D-
866-834	B	733-700	C-	Below 600	F

GENERAL NOTES

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**...phones will be confiscated
3. **NO sassy attitudes**—this is a safe place to explore and be creative
4. 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.
5. Most of all, be prepared to **WORK!**

Welcome to the first choreography class taught at our university! Because it 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.

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 individual's 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

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Concealed Carry in Laboratories:

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.

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.