



**MIDWESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

A Member of the Texas Tech University System

**THEA 2122: Dance for Theatre-Jazz  
Fain College of Fine Arts**

**Fall 2025**

MWF 9:00-9:50 AM

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Liz Redmill

Office: B107

Office hours: Mon. 1:00-3:00 PM, Tues. 9:00-10:00 AM, Wed. 1:00-3:00 PM or by appointment

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**Course Description**

Basic instruction in the history and application of dance in theatre including tap, jazz, ballroom, and/or modern dance. Instruction may be related to productions being prepared for public presentation. May be repeated one time for credit.

This class introduces students to the foundational and modern elements of Broadway Jazz dance, drawing inspiration from legendary choreographers. Students will develop essential techniques, vocabulary, and skills at the beginning level. Each session will start with a warm-up and build toward learning movement combinations.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

No textbooks are required for this class. However, proper dance shoes ARE REQUIRED and will be needed for class. You are required to provide your own ballet slippers or jazz shoes. The shoe must cover BOTH your toe and your heel. Street shoes, bare feet, and socks are not permitted in the dance studio. Failure to provide appropriate footwear may result in the lowering of one's grade.

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Develop knowledge and awareness of safe performance techniques.
2. Develop dance vocabulary and skills necessary for a beginning dancer.
3. Demonstrate an introductory understanding of the theories, contexts, and history of jazz dance.
4. Develop critical thinking skills for discussion and executing dance in regard to theatrical performance.
5. Rehearse and perform a number of movement combinations demonstrating a fundamental understanding of dance technique.

## Course Requirements

### IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION:

- Turn off or silence cell phones. Cell phones should not be seen or heard during class time.
- Engage in daily activities and class discussions.
- NO gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the studio. A water bottle with a lid is welcome and encouraged. (Please no Stanley cups.)
- Listen and remain attentive during class. Have fun, be engaged, participate fully to develop your skills and imagination, and gain insight into yourself. Participation will be graded on attitude, effort, execution of movement, improvement, and classroom discipline and conduct.
- Remain respectful and attentive while others are speaking/demonstrating in class.
- Any injuries that prohibit class participation must be reported to the instructor.
- If you cannot participate in class due to an injury you must quietly take notes on the combinations, ideas, and concepts discussed in class. These notes must be turned in to the instructor at the end of the class period.
- If you must leave the classroom before the end of class, please let the instructor know beforehand.

### DRESS CODE POLICY:

Proper dance attire is required for this class to ensure safety and allow for clear observation of body alignment and movement.

- **Clothing:** Wear form-fitting dancewear that clearly shows the outline and placement of your body.
  - **Acceptable attire for all students** includes leotards, tights, long leggings, snug-fitting T-shirts, jazz pants, or slim-fitting capris.
- **Not permitted:**
  - Baggy clothing
  - Jewelry
  - Shorts above the knee
  - Hats
  - Heavy or oversized sweatshirts
- **Footwear:** Students must wear soft, thin-soled jazz shoes or ballet slippers.
- **Hair:** Hair must be pulled back and secured away from the face.

**Important:** Students who arrive in inappropriate attire will not be allowed to participate in class and will lose participation points for the day.

### CHOREOGRAPHY/SKILLS TESTS:

- Students will rehearse and present movement combinations, as assigned by the instructor. These will be taught in class and will reflect the styles of iconic Broadway choreographers.
- Videos of each combination will be posted on D2L by the instructor; the purpose is solely for your at-home practice. Videos of course material are not permitted to be posted on the internet.
- Each week a different combination will be taught and assessed. These weekly performances will be taped and discussed with the students (as requested).
- Students will be expected to practice outside of class in order to progress at an appropriate pace.

#### SELF-ASSESSMENTS:

- Students will complete three self-assessments during the semester to reflect on their personal growth in the dance skills being taught. Each assessment will focus on their progress, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- Self-assessments will be submitted on D2L.

#### WEEKLY READINGS/DISCUSSIONS:

- Readings will be posted weekly on D2L the Tuesday prior to the due date. Students will be required to participate in online and classroom discussions on the readings. More information will be given on D2L.

#### CHOREOGRAPHER PRESENTATION:

- Students will research and present on an iconic Broadway choreographer. More information will be given later in the semester.

#### PRODUCTION REVIEW:

- Students are required to attend *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* You can receive a free ticket with your valid MSU Student ID.
- Students will write a 2-page, double-spaced paper reflecting on their observation of the performance. The paper should include:
  - A general overview of the show
  - Identification of any dance elements, techniques, or concepts learned in class that were reflected on stage
  - Personal observations using all five senses.
  - Consider questions such as:
    - How was the mood or tone of a musical number reflected in the choreography?
    - How did the choreography use space, time, energy, and direction?
    - What did the costuming and multimedia elements contribute to the performance?
- This paper should demonstrate thoughtful observation and connection between class content and live performance.

#### FINAL EXAM:

- The final exam will be an in-class presentation of a fully choreographed Broadway number from an iconic choreographer. The final exam will take place during Finals Week according to the MSU calendar.

#### **Attendance**

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. 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.

Three non-official absences are allowed to accommodate students who must miss class due to illness, family functions, etc. If a student is acting as an official representative of the University they

must provide prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. Please communicate with the instructor as soon as possible about illness or scheduled absences.

Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to a dance class; please arrive on time, ready to dance. If a student is more than 25 minutes late for class without contacting the instructor in advance, it will be considered an absence. Students who disappear for more than 10 minutes during class will also be considered absent.

Late work will not be accepted. If a student is absent, homework must be turned in via email, D2L (when applicable), or a classmate the day it is due. Choreography tests will be on Fridays. Arrangements need to be made in advance to schedule an alternative testing time.

### **Instructor Class Policies**

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

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

#### **AI STATEMENT**

You may use AI for planning, idea development, and initial research. Your final submission should show how you developed and refined these initial ideas into the final submission.

#### **SAFE ZONE STATEMENT**

The instructor considers this classroom (or whatever space in which this class is meeting) to be a place where everyone 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 all can agree to disagree. It is the instructor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.

#### **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 instructor 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.

#### **SCHOOL CLOSURES/INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the case of a school closure due to inclement weather or other situations, classes will be moved to Zoom through D2L. Make sure to check D2L announcements for specific instructions.

### Grading

Assignments	Percentage
Daily Participation	35%
Choreography/Skills Tests	15%
Self-Assessments	10%
Discussions	10%
Choreographer Presentation	10%
Production Review	10%
Final Exam	10%
<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grade	Percentage
A	94-100
A-	90-93.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.00
F	Below 60

### Important Theatre Department Dates

8/27 4:00 PM	Majors/Minors Meeting
8/27 6:00 PM	<i>Schoolhouse Rock/Blithe Spirit</i> Auditions
9/17 4:00 PM	Majors/Minors Meeting
10/1 All Day	Honors Theatre Day
10/2-10/5 7:30 PM	<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live!</i>
10/15 4:00 PM	Majors/Minors Meeting
11/12 4:00 PM	Majors/Minors Meeting
11/20-11/23 7:30 PM	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>
12/2 6:00 PM	<i>Cabaret</i> Auditions

### Course Schedule

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1	Introduction to course and syllabus  Self-assessment #1 Combo #1	  8/29 8/29
Week 2	Combo #2	9/5
Week 3	Weekly Reading/Discussion  Combo #3	9/8  9/12
Week 4	Weekly Reading/Discussion  Combo #4	9/15  9/19
Week 5	Weekly Reading/Discussion  Combo #5	9/22  9/26
Week 6	Weekly Reading/Discussion Intro Choreographer Presentation Assignment  Honor's Theatre-No Class  Work on Choreographer Presentation- ONLINE	9/29   10/1  10/3
Week 7	Weekly Reading/Discussion  Combo #6 Production Review Paper	10/6  10/10 10/10
Week 8	Weekly Reading/Discussion  Self-Assessment #2 Combo #7	10/13  10/17 10/17
Week 9	Weekly Reading/Discussion Start Combo #8  Choreographer Presentations	10/20  10/24

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 10	Weekly Reading/Discussion	10/27
	Choreographer Presentations Combo #8	10/31 10/31
Week 11	Weekly Reading/Discussion Start Final Combo	11/3
	Choreographer Presentations	11/7
Week 12	Weekly Reading/Discussion Work on Final Combo	11/10
	Choreographer Presentations	11/14
Week 13	Work on Final Combo	
Week 14	Work on Final Combo	
	Thanksgiving Break	11/26-11/30
Week 15	Review Final Combo Self-Assessment #3	12/5

#### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

#### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [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.

[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*

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

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.

#### *Alcohol and Drug Policy*

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

#### *Smoking/Tobacco Policy*

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC.

#### *Active Shooter*

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

### Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

**\*Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.