

THFM-2920-001 (3 credit hours)
INTRODUCTION TO DANCE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Winter, 2021
Tue/Thur 8:30-9:45 a.m.
ZOOM Delivery

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to dance with an emphasis on learning dance-related vocabulary and training the body in new physical disciplines.

The course focuses on building the skills necessary to dance in musical theatre reviews and musicals. It will cover the practical study and practice of the styles and techniques associated with musical theatre: jazz, ballet, contemporary and character dance. Students will learn proper placement and alignment while focusing on basic dance movements. There will also be a focus on improvement of fitness, flexibility and stamina building.

The exercises and movement sequences presented are designed, through attentive repetitive practice, to enable the student to understand and execute choreography with a sense of style and musicality. In addition, emphasis is placed on developing the techniques necessary to convey the story behind the movements including timing, delivery, and intention. Major focus will be placed on the ability of the student to repeat movement patterns and sequences demonstrated by the instructor.

Material is pulled from both "contemporary" and "historic" musicals. Students will be introduced to a cross-section of styles which will serve as a launching pad for future dance-related study.

The student's responsibility includes: professionalism, i.e. regular attendance, promptness of arrival, preparation, assignments and practical work completed on time, professional etiquette and disciplined working attitude, ability to work well with peers, prompt communication with the teachers if problems arise, and a conscientious effort to meet course goals.

TEXTS

Books (for reference; NOT required)

Discovering Musicals - A Liberal arts Guide to Stage and Screen, Marc Raymond Strauss,
(McFarland & Co.)

Creating Musical Theatre: Conversations with Broadway Directors and Choreographers, Lyn Cramer (Methuen Drama)

So You Want To Dance On Broadway, Tina Paul (Heinemann)

REQUIRED DANCEWEAR

Comfortable but form fitting tops and bottoms: Jazz pants/leggings/yogawear/bike shorts are recommended.

*No midriff tops * No jewelry * No chewing gum

Footwear: socks, jazz oxfords, track shoes with flexible soles.

* Hair should be pulled back.

* Bring a water bottle.

* Cellphones must be turned off during class

MARK BREAKDOWN

| | |
|---|------|
| Term Test (February 2)* | 10% |
| Notation Assignment (March 4)** | 10% |
| Final paper (due April 6)*** | 15% |
| Mastery of physical patterns (students will be notified 10% of this grade prior to withdrawal date) | 30% |
| Practical Dance Exam April 6 (this will be a practical exam based on three dance combinations and will take the form of a physical dance audition). It will be adapted to ZOOM delivery as necessary and students may be required to self-tape and submit their final presentations.. | 30% |
| Professionalism and participation (see definition under Course Description) | 5% |
| Total | 100% |

Late work will NOT be accepted without prior arrangement.
All homework assignments are due on the date assigned.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-----|------|----|------------|-----|-----|
| A+ | 90 - 100% | GPA | 4.5 | C+ | 65 - 69.9% | GPA | 2.5 |
| A | 85 - 89.9% | GPA | 4.25 | C | 60 - 64.9% | GPA | 2.0 |
| A- | 80 - 84.9% | GPA | 4.0 | D | 50 - 59.9% | GPA | 1.0 |
| B+ | 75 - 79.9% | GPA | 3.5 | F | below 50% | GPA | 0 |
| B | 70 - 74.9% | GPA | 3.0 | | | | |

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

Description of class work assignments:

*1. Written quiz based on in class usage of dance terminology and technical knowledge. Students will receive hand-outs supplementing this information as well as video clips to demonstrate specific steps.

Grading: 10%

**2. The introduction of choreographic notation. Students will be expected to convert a physical dance pattern into its written form. Guidelines will be distributed in class.

Grading: 10%

***3. Final written assignment will be based on a specific dance-related topic. It will require personal research into the field of musical theatre and will be graded on a combination of clarity of ideas, critical commentary, and overall writing ability.

Grading: 15%

Students will receive an ongoing critique of their practical work through personal consultation with the instructor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The first date of class is January 7, 2021 and the last date is April 6, 2021. Please be prepared to dance in the 1st class with proper workout wear and space.

January 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, Feb. 2* (Term test)

- Intro to body placement and posture, warm-up and warm-down exercises
- Preliminary work on jazz and ballet-based dance technique
- Introduction to dance terminology and notation
- Locomotion skills
- Basic floor patterns
- First selection of dance choreography (standard audition repertoire for ensemble)

February 4, 9, 11, 23, 25, March 2

- Continued work on jazz and contemporary technique
- Centre work warm-ups and introduction to working with props (i.e. chair, cane, etc.)
- Integration of more complex rhythms of movement, increased length and complexity of dance combinations
- Second selection of dance choreography (dance solo with use of a prop)

March 4 (Notation assignment due), 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, April 1, April 6 ***
(Written assignment due)**

- Review and refinement of Jazz Dance Choreographies/Introduction to contemporary musical choreography including rock-based and hip-hop based musical sequences
- Preparation for final presentation
- Third selection of dance choreography based on contemporary technique

April 6

- Final class - Dance Exam - practical presentation

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS for 2nd- through 4th-year Performance classes

Given that this is a practical studio course, extensive participation and professionalism are required. As a result, punctuality and attendance at on-line and in-person classes and at out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Although the on-line component of the course may allow for some flexibility where unexpected issues come into play, normally the following will apply:

- **Attendance and punctuality will be recorded at the beginning of every class.**
- Unexcused absences from lectures, labs, or rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 2% per instance.
- Unexcused lateness for lectures, labs, or rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance.
- After a **THIRD** late or absence, the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss withdrawal from the course.
- After a **FIFTH** unexcused absence the student will be required to meet with the Chair of the department to discuss withdrawal from the course.
- In performance courses in which casts rehearse a show, unexcused lateness and absence will not be tolerated and may result in the recasting of your role after **ONE** incident.
- Excused absences or lates require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence.
- After **FIVE** excused absences the student will be required to meet with the Instructor to discuss whether it is realistic for him/her to continue in the course.

Given the rigorous, practical nature of studio courses, and the demands these courses make in terms of attendance and punctuality, students with chronic medical conditions that require

extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE COURSES

- Senior acting students scheduled to perform in a departmental public exercise will be expected to attend rehearsals, either online or in person depending on the Instructor's schedule. Rehearsals for final presentations and public exercises are scheduled well in advance; students must arrange their university and work schedules so as not to conflict with them. Students must attend **ALL** scheduled rehearsals.
- Any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, arrives late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course (see Attendance note, above).
- As many of our classes are physical in nature, students are asked to wear comfortable clothing. **Even while working on-line, there will be physical work required. Ideally the student will have space to move while on-line and be dressed to move.** If there are limitations due to the student's remote environment, adjustments should be made with the instructor in advance.
- No eating, chewing gum, or wearing a mask during on-line work.
- In a presentation environment, student actors, like professionals, are expected to provide their own basic makeup supplies where required. **ABSOLUTELY NO SHARING OF MAKEUP** will be allowed due to the potential health risks.
- Senior acting students scheduled to perform in a departmental public exercise are asked not to modify their hair colour or style without first checking with the instructor/director.
- When attending classes, rehearsals or labs in the Theatre building, outdoor footwear **must be removed** before entering **ANY** of the Studios: **0T09** (Concourse Studio), **0T19** (Mime Lab), **1T15** (Theatre), **2T05** (2nd Floor Studio), **2T15** (Movement Studio). We suggest you bring suitable dance shoes or slippers to wear if working in one of these spaces. Your professors will monitor and enforce this regulation in order to preserve the integrity of the special flooring in these rooms. Please respect this rule.
- Students attending rehearsals or labs in the Theatre building are **not allowed** bring props, costumes, or furnishings to support in-person scene presentations for health and hygiene reasons.
- Students attending rehearsals or labs in the Theatre building **MUST NOT** move existing furnishings from their current locations.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT NOTE

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. When in-person, classes and rehearsals may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services - let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending on-campus lectures and labs. Exposure to perfumes and other **scented products (such as lotion)** can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies,

migraines or chemical sensitivities. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

Normally, during the FW terms, the Department of Theatre and Film presents a series of lectures held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20). This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business," and attendance is compulsory for some courses (for example, all Honours level students must attend). This year, the series has been somewhat truncated. One lecture took place by Zoom in September, and further lectures may be added in the winter term online (by Zoom or other platform). Watch our website for information on further lectures as they are planned.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term; introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our Orientation Assembly took place by Zoom in September. Occasionally during the year, other Town Hall type Department-wide meetings may be called; check our website for information as new meetings are planned.

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams**, **Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and **24/7** (an event in which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented - all in a period of 24 hours!).

Please join TAFSA to find out more at their meetings, every second Monday from 12:30-13:20 pm (by Zoom or other platform in 2020-21). Follow TAFSA at @tafsauw on Instagram. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

To safeguard the health of the UWinnipeg community – and support public health efforts – during the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the UW campus is closed until further notice. All academic instruction and evaluation will continue through alternate delivery.

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is CLOSED as per Campus policy. Access for students attending in-person labs in our building will be arranged as necessary. All studios and labs are locked 24/7.

NOTE: It is **MANDATORY** that anyone attending labs or rehearsals in the building carry an ID card/student card to verify they are allowed to be on campus. If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you will be evicted**.

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

RECORDING ON-LINE CLASSES

The instructor may choose to record a zoom or video class if there are online connectivity issues, absences, or to post to Nexus for later review.

If a lecture is recorded, students will be given notice (via the course outline or on a case-by-case basis) that their personal information may be captured; informed of how long the recording will be retained; and whether the recording will be used for evaluation of any kind. Students will also be given the option to turn off their cameras/microphones and use pseudonyms to remain anonymous (except where class participation is required).

Students with concerns or who wish to seek alternate arrangements may discuss the matter with the instructor.

Access to recordings will be limited to the academic staff, students, and others with a legitimate need. Recordings containing student personal information will not be posted publicly, but only on UW-approved servers.

No student is allowed to disseminate recordings outside of the class or post recordings publicly. Access to the recordings will be limited to the instructor and the students.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film* and *Access Card/Building Use Policy*.

Room bookings at the ACTF are suspended until at least December 31, 2020 and possibly longer. However, when we are able to allow students to book rooms again, links to *Room Booking Instructions* and electronic *Online Room Booking Form* can also be found on our department website. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

- Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>.
- Students should check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses daily as this is the most direct way instructors and the University will contact students, particularly during the current remote learning environment.

- This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
- Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, they should withdraw from this course immediately.
- Unless necessary for accessing class, cellular phones should be turned off during classes and examinations. Texting is not permitted in class.
- Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean. *Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.*
- **Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity:** Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "Regulations and Policies" found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections **8 ("Student Discipline")**, **9 ("Senate Appeals")**, and **10 ("Grade Appeals")**.

Please note the importance of maintaining academic integrity, and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even "unintentional" plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>) is a form of academic misconduct.

Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (file-sharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves "aiding and abetting" plagiarism. More detailed information can be found here: Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>.

- **Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, notes on whiteboards, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior

permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy.

Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy (https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf).

- **Research Ethics.** Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>.
- **Privacy.** Students should be familiar with their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)
- **Respectful Learning Environment.** All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used.

Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., *Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>; *Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>) could be considered “non-academic” misconduct.

More detailed information can be found here:

Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>
And <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf> .

- Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 17, 2020 for Fall courses which begin in September 2020 and end in December 2020;

- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 23, 2021 for Fall/Winter courses which begin in September 2020 and end in April 2021;
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 16, 2021 for Winter courses which begin in January 2021 and end in April 2021.

Students are encouraged to speak to the Instructor before withdrawing to explore other options.

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.