

DNCE 1000-003: Beginning Contemporary

Spring 2020 Course Syllabus

“Comparison is the thief of joy”-Theodore Roosevelt

Instructor: Sarah Mauney

Classroom: THTR W350

Meeting Time: Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45 pm

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 pm-3:00 pm or by appointment (hours subject to change)

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, March 4th Due to Canvas

Last Day of Class: Wednesday, April 29th

Final Exam: Monday, May 4th, 7:30 pm

Description: Introduces beginning students to fundamental aspects of contemporary dance technique; no previous experience required. Basic principles of weight, effort, internal/external awareness, and time are introduced as the building blocks for success in advanced material. Foundational movements on the floor and traveling through space are learned and refined and individual expression is encouraged. Students work toward mastery of simple combinations and rhythmic patterns. May be repeated up to 2 total credit hours.

Objectives:

- To introduce and explore basic building blocks of contemporary movement, including but not limited to the use of weight, effort internal/external initiation and awareness, and time/rhythm.
- To practice movements with kinesthetic awareness, striving to achieve the desired feel and form of each position, step, and phrase. Alexander Technique and Laban/Bartenieff terminology may be utilized to this end.
- To begin cultivating clarity of movement, musicality, flexibility, and artistry in a supportive environment.
- Through regular practice and the application of somatic understanding, to embody the contemporary dance vocabulary with increasing ease and precision while discovering the pleasure of self-expression offered by dance.

Attire: Students should present themselves neatly in class. Clothing must allow for all major joints in the body to move freely and allow the instructor to clearly see the dancer's alignment. Socks may be worn for warm-ups, but dancers must be prepared to participate barefoot when the safety of the class depends on it. Long hair must be secured away from the face. No jewelry or watches. Long pants are highly recommended and knee pads may be useful for some.

Studio Etiquette: Treat the people, the dance form, and the studio with respect. Watch your fellow students dancing with full attention, admiration, and compassion. Chewing gum, food, drinks (apart from water bottles), smoking, and street shoes are all prohibited in the dance classroom. Please do not wear lotions that might make the floor slippery. Please do not wear perfume or anything with a strong fragrance as these can be irritating to fellow dancers.

Cell Phones: CELL PHONE USE IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED DURING DANCE CLASS. Phones must be off during class. Dancers may not check or use their phones during their class. The use of a cell phone will result in the dancer being asked to observe the remainder of the class.

Hands-on Corrections: Certain corrections are more effective when your instructor uses a hands-on approach. Your instructor may also assign in-class partnering to further assist in the teaching & mastery of some steps. Your instructor is an AmSat certified and will maintain the professional decorum expected from this governing organization and CU Boulder. Your instructor will uphold a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** for any student who abuses the trust of their fellow students when it comes to appropriate hands-on work. Failure to abide by the rules of decorum set forth by the instructor and by CU Boulder will **automatically receive a Failing Grade** for the course and will be **recommended for further discipline by the University**.

Paper Format: All papers are to be stapled, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and in 12-pt Times New Roman font. Papers will be graded based primarily on content, though correct spelling and grammar are also factors. Treat every writing assignment with the same care and consideration you put into your application essay questions. Points will be deducted from papers not conforming to the required format. Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the assigned date through Canvas. **No late work will be accepted.**

Assessment Guidelines:

Attendance 30% of Final Grade

This class is attendance-based as the daily classwork is the primary work, and is therefore impossible to replace or make-up. Improvement in ballet relies upon regular practice and instructor-pupil interaction. Students will be excused for **TWO** absences, at their discretion. Students should observe the class if they are sick, injured, or more than five minutes late. Observing students should take notes on exercises and any new vocabulary and must be shown to the instructor at the end of class. **Observed classes will receive full credit only two times during the semester.** Beyond the excused absences, **each additional absence will lower the final letter grade by 1/3** (from A- to B+, for example). Observation days beyond the two allowed will count against the Attendance Grade at the instructor's discretion. As attendance is taken at the beginning of class, tardy students should check in with the instructor at the end of class. Use common courtesy: inform the instructor of expected absences, early departures, or other special circumstances which may require special accommodations. See the Addendum for information about missing class due to religious observance.

Participation/Improvement: 30% of Final Grade

Categories of grading/evaluation include:

- Conditioning: The demonstration of balanced flexibility, strength, and endurance
- Coordination: The ability to orchestrate the body as a whole entity in the unified presentation of the ballet vocabulary
- Clarity: The ability to accurately and consistently replicate steps and combinations with efficiency and openness
- Movement Pick-up: The growing ability to learn and execute with improved ease vs. resistance
- Artistry: The ability to demonstrate an integration of individuality and musicality with technical training through an aesthetically intelligent approach to the vocabulary

Students will be evaluated on a continuum: not evident; developing; evident; and proficient. Student evaluation is based solely on individual progress-Students are NOT evaluated in comparison to each other.

A or A- (Excellent): *The student's work demonstrated technical advancement that excels and pushes results beyond what is requested. Excellent* is for students who demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to learning, a willingness to take movement risks and integrate corrections. Excellent students demonstrate their best at all times and exceptional growth in the objectives of the course. An excellent student is capable

of dancing at a substantially higher level at the end of the semester than when the semester began, working to the best of their ability, class after class.

B+, B, B- (Good): *The student's work fulfills the expected goals indicated in the syllabus, handouts, or in-class instructions.* **Good** is for students who approach their work with consistency, showing dedication, a willingness to take new steps, concentration and strong work habits. These students will demonstrate increased accomplishment of some skills during the semester.

C+, C, C- (Average): *The student's work fulfills most of the expected goals indicated in the syllabus, handouts, or in-class instructions.* **The average** is for students who do their work and actively participate in class, but rarely push themselves to a new level. Having accomplished some skills during the semester, both the student and the teacher know that their work could be better. Work habits are inconsistent. An average student can accomplish more.

D+, D, D- (Poor): *The student's work fulfills few of the expected goals and shows little understanding of the process.* **Poor** is for students who have not done their work regularly. Lacking the necessary energy or rigor for the course, this student shows very little improvement. Consistently coming late or often absent, a poor student is distracted or not interested in improving their dancing.

F (Failing): *The student's work fails to demonstrate an understanding of the goals or the process involved.* **Failing** is for students who have missed many classes, been regularly tardy and/or sat out so much that there is no basis from which to grade. Failing students regularly display disinterest in the material as presented by the instructor and/or lack productive work habits and therefore achieve little success after class.

Performance Attendance: 5%

Students are expected to support their dance education by attending a live dance performance, preferably presented by the CU Dance Department. Students are expected to turn in a ticket stub WITHIN ONE WEEK OF SEEING THE DANCE SHOW FOR FULL CREDIT. Please see the list of shows below and plan to get a ticket early, as these shows usually sell out quickly. PROOF OF CONCERT ATTENDANCE DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 22ND.

Jan 31st-Feb 2nd: Catapult- A BFA Concert

Feb 28th-March 1st: Open Space Student Works

March 2nd: Pilobolus Dance Theater

April 4th: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

April 10th-19th: The Current

Please visit the link to purchase tickets: <https://cupresents.org/>

Goals & Intentions Paper: 5% of Final Grade Students will write a one page summary of why they have enrolled in Beginning Contemporary and explain what they hope to gain from the course. Some questions students might answer in this paper are: Why did you sign up for this class? What do you hope to gain personally from this course? How do you think dance in general/contemporary dance specifically relates to your primary field of study? **Due Beginning of Class January 29th**

Mid-Term Evaluations: Reflection Paper 10% of Final Grade Students will provide feedback about their progress in the class in the form of a two to three-page paper about their experience in the course. Students will describe their understanding of their progress, how they comprehend personal strengths, places where they can continue to grow, and areas of demonstrated improvement thus far in the course, as well as any major concerns or challenges that remain. They should also be able to identify one contemporary dance company with whom they enjoy watching and describe why. **This paper will be due by the start of class on Wednesday, March 4th**

Final Evaluations: 20% of Final Grade Students will execute exercises and final choreography established throughout the semester to evaluate movement proficiency and application of technical concepts. **This exam will take place on April 29th during our normal class time.** Students will evaluate their work throughout the semester in the format of a three-to-four page paper, including progress on their goals, their general improvement, and important discoveries. **This paper will be due during the Final Exam Period on May 4th.**

Addendum:

Photo Release Statement- By enrolling in this course, you hereby grant to the University of Colorado the unrestricted, unlimited right and permission to use, reproduce, copyright, publish, and exhibit in any form any manner whatsoever any and all records of your participation, appearance, name, likeness, voice, and other

biographical material, whether written, digital, on videotape, audiotape, film, photographs, drawings, or any other medium or other means of reproduction.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code

as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please alert your professor with at least a full 24 hours notice of your absence due to religious observance.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.