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Fall 9-1-2022

### DANC 115A.01: Introduction to Jazz Dance

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## Introduction to Jazz Dance

University of Montana, School of Theatre & Dance  
Fall 2022      DANC115A-01 70025 3 Credits  
Mondays/Wednesdays 2:30-3:50 pm      PARTV 005

**Instructor:** Joy French, [joy.french@umontana.edu](mailto:joy.french@umontana.edu) - Office hours: by appointment

### Course Objectives

DANC 115 is designed for the beginning jazz dancer. Fundamental skills and concepts of jazz dance will be explored through technique & improvisation. Specifically, this semester we will be looking at:

- **Syncopation**
  - exploring rhythmic range within the body in relation to the music
  - looking at the African roots of Jazz dance
- **Line & Extension**
  - investigating with the dynamic edge of our physical kinesphere
  - borrowing vocabulary from Ballet and discussing its influence
- **Grounded/Weighted versus Light**
  - shifting energetic qualities
  - understanding how/where these occur in the body
- **Spatiality**
  - understanding where you are in space in relation to studio, other dancers, and your own kinesphere
- **Polycentric & Polyrhythmic**
  - exploring body patterns with multiple centers and rhythms
- **Performance & Personal Expression**
  - developing our performance qualities
  - discovering individual personality and style within the form
- **Strengthening:** this will be a continual cultivation during the course of the semester

### Attire:

Please wear comfortable clothes that allow for freedom of movement. (No jeans or tight pants, please. If you have a question about movement-appropriate clothing, please ask Joy.) You *may* need CLEAN shoes that allow turning. Jazz shoes/boots can be purchased online or at local dance studios.) You may also opt to dance with bare feet if it is comfortable for you.

### Important Details to note:

- **We WILL be meeting during FINALS week** - please plan accordingly. **Intro to Jazz Dance final will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 1:10-3:10pm.**
- If at any point you feel further discussion would aid your development, please schedule a meeting with Joy.
- If you are sick or injured please talk to the instructor as soon as possible before class. This includes any pre-existing conditions/injuries that should be shared.
- If you get injured during class get Joy's attention immediately!
- Restrooms/locker rooms are located across the hall.
- **NO food or drinks** (except water in closed bottles) are permitted in the dance studios or theaters.
- **NO cellphones** should be seen or heard during the 80 mins of class.
- **NO street shoes** are allowed in the dance studio at any time, even carried in-hand. Anyone entering the studio must remove their street shoes BEFORE entering and leave them outside the studio. The only shoes permitted in studios are those that

have been purchased for the exclusive use of dance in dance studios (with the exclusion of tap shoes, hard-shoe clogs, and flamenco shoes. These should never be worn on Marley floors).

- Individuals concerned about theft should check out a locker for their shoes and other belongings.
- NOTE: **Lockers** are available for any student. The School of Theatre & Dance recommends that students do not leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, dance studios, or theatres as **thefts frequently occur**. Lockers may be checked out through the School: schedule TBA.

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#### Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php).

#### For Theatre & Dance Students

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

#### From UM President Seth Bodnar:

The wide availability of safe, effective vaccines to combat COVID-19 means that we are able to continue full in-person learning again this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated (and receive a booster shot) if you haven't done so already. Vaccination provides the best means of protecting yourself – and others in our UM Family – from the risk of COVID-19.

Please visit <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/corona-virus.php> for the latest health/safety information, as well as campus communications and plans about the global health pandemic.

#### From the EO/AA Office:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). If you think you may have a disability affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with ODE, please visit them in Aber Hall. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

#### Statement of Empowerment

The School of Theatre and Dance recognizes that art can provoke; therefore, during the course of this class or class-related activities, participants are empowered to remove themselves should they feel a threat to their well-being.

#### Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, and cross-cultural challenges can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the CHC Health Portal: <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/>. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text Line: text MT to 741-741.

## **DANCE TECHNIQUE CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

*Fall Semester 2022*

Many Dance Technique courses satisfy the General Education Expressive Arts Credit. To receive an Expressive Arts Credit, the student must enroll in the course for a traditional grade and receive a C- or higher.

In dance, often our “texts” are the body itself, as opposed to books. Thus we will be attending dance events this semester to witness these “texts” in action.

### **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT THE FOLLOWING:**

- A. **The Missoula Roadshow**, Bare Bait Dance
- Dates: September 9-11 at 6:30pm
    - Venues: 3 different venues - check online for details: <https://barebaitdance.org/>
  - Tickets/access: No ticket needed / Pass-the-hat donations collected at each show
- B. **Dance on Location**, UM School of Theatre & Dance
- Date: Saturday, October 8 at 2pm
    - Venue: UM Campus - meet at Mansfield Library entrance
  - Tickets: Free!
- C. **RED, Guest Performance Residency** - Bare Bait Dance
- Dates: October 28 @ 8pm, Oct 29 @ 2pm & 8pm, October 30 @ 6pm
    - Venue: Westside Theater
  - Tickets: \$22/Student Ticket; \$28/General Admission Ticket
    - tickets and info: <https://barebaitdance.org/red>
- D. **Hello Winter!**, Bare Bait Dance
- Live Performance Dates: November 26 - December 4
    - Live Venue: Westside Theater
    - Tickets: \$22/Student Ticket; \$28/General Admission Ticket
  - Virtual Venue: Vimeo On Demand streaming platform
    - Virtual Viewing: starting December 5
    - Virtual access: \$10/virtual streaming
  - Live tickets and streaming access: <https://barebaitdance.org/hello-winter>
- E. **Dance Underground**, UM School of Theatre & Dance
- Dates: December 2 @ 7:30pm, December 3 @ 2pm & 7:30pm
    - Venue: PARTV Open Space (005)
  - Tickets: \$5-10
    - Available at Griz Tix or at the PARTV Box Office

About the dance shows/films you are to attend/view:

Think of this like your books for the class and please budget accordingly!

**Your instructor will require a written critique, quiz, or something else of their own choosing as an assignment after every performance. Assignments will be due the Monday after the close of the production.**

\*There is no make-up assignment for performances missed unless arrangements are made **prior to the production.**

## **ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICY–DANCE TECHNIQUE**

Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, watching a film of the dance or reading about it in a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss.

The Dance Faculty EXPECTS STUDENTS TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, students are permitted **1 week of absences**. Given the content of a dance class, no makeup work can be done when a student is absent.

**For Jazz classes:** 1 week of absences = 2 allowed absences

**AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR PERMITTED ABSENCES, YOU WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL ABSENCE.**

**Observations:** Each observation will be counted as a 1/3 of an absence.

Students who arrive late, may be asked to observe the entire class time.

**GRADING:** Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason, we do not have a point breakdown, but rather general guidelines.

To receive an “A” you must:

- show signs of aptitude for dance technique
- have an energetic, attentive attitude
- progress over the semester
- be at the top level of the class, and, of course,
- fulfill the attendance, critique, and exam requirements

\*Please refer to the Dance Program Technique Criteria Guidelines.

You will receive an “F” if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an “F.” Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+ and you will receive a “C+”). Students may receive an “incomplete” (I) only if there are exceptional circumstances, *that have been discussed at length with the instructor.*