

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF DANCE
DANC 10300: Jazz I | Fall 2023
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9-10:15 am | Location: Pao Hall, 1179

Instructor: Nina Kossler | **Email:** nkossler@purdue.edu
Office: PAO 1105 | **Office Hours:** by appointment

***This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor at any time during the semester. Should any adjustments be made, you will be notified in class and on Brightspace.**

Catalog Description: An introduction to the principles of jazz dance techniques: alignment, isolations, rhythmic patterns, and basic locomotion.

Course Description: Beginning level of the form of jazz dance technique. Students will be exploring the technical vocabulary accompanied by bold rhythmic patterns. Students will also learning about the historical and cultural lineages that inform jazz dance. Each dancer's unique voice in their work will be developed throughout the course, explored through different styles of jazz dance.

Credits: 2.0

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbooks: NONE, all required readings will be uploaded to Brightspace

Recommended Texts: "Jazz Dance: A History of Roots and Branches," ed. Lindsay Guarino & Wendy Oliver, ISBN 9780813061290.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Technical Skills
 - a. Pointing and articulation of the feet and working through the floor
 - b. Basic knowledge and ability to execute foundational alignment requirements
 - c. Locomoting or moving through space with simple weight shifts and directional changes
 - d. Increase in range of motion beyond average pedestrian movement
 - e. Ability to isolate major body parts and begin to layer isolations into gently complex patterns
 - f. Understanding of basic positions of arms and legs as they relate to jazz and come from ballet
 - g. Basic understanding of spotting
2. Executions Skills
 - a. Basic ability to see and recreate physical movement as demonstrated by a faculty member over a period of time
 - b. Ability to retain from one class to another with two to three reviews
 - c. Execute basic directional changes and short movement phrases

- d. Execute longer phrase work consistently and correctly over the course of a month
 - e. Ability to understand corrections and apply over a period of time to better execution
 - f. Ability to reverse basic and simple choreography with instructor assistance
- 3. Performance Skills
 - a. Increasing and improving ability to sustain energy level through longer movement phrases and combinations.
 - b. Understanding and ability to execute clear focus.
 - c. Ability to express simple or beginning levels of character and emotion through movement.
 - d. Ensemble performance as a large group.
- 4. Artistry Skills
 - a. Ability to embody different basic dynamics of legato and staccato.
 - b. Ability to embody different tempos and speeds.
 - c. Ability to hear and execute movement with a relationship to music.
- 5. Professionalism Skills
 - a. Know the basic order of a jazz class.
 - b. Know and execute the expectations as they relate to dress and footwear
 - c. Be on time.
 - d. Be focused for the entirety of class.
 - e. Respect - respectful of self, peers, and instructor

Teaching Strategies:

- Conduct the class so that students may work towards achieving each SLO.
- Encourage the students to learn from one another by observing each other when receiving corrections and throughout class.
- Demonstrate class exercises and material with clarity and as accurately as is possible.
- Encourage self-discovery and nurture the development of each student's unique artistic qualities.
- Provide honest and specific feedback.
- Create a positive and inspiring atmosphere for learning.

Evaluation Methods:

In assessments and general classwork, I will be evaluating your growth and the quality of your participation based upon the following:

1. Maintaining a positive, focused, and productive attitude towards your work in class.
2. Fully attending to the movement material presented, as well as to the explanations and analyses of its specific components.
3. Listening carefully to and applying corrections/recommendations for improvement provided in class (individual and general).
 - **Note- you will not receive individual verbal feedback every class, as I will be rotating each class to make sure each student gets ample feedback opportunities. However, if you wish to receive specific feedback and have not in any given moment, please do not hesitate to ask.*

4. Learning the movement material as quickly as you can through observation and practice, holding questions until all demonstrations have been given.
5. When executing movement, working towards both technical and qualitative success of the material.

Consent/Tactile Feedback: *The Division of Dance utilizes a practice of consent in all dance classes, auditions, and rehearsals. Instructors will describe their approach to tactile feedback on the first day of classes. Students have agency to communicate in their chosen mode their level of comfort or discomfort with tactile feedback. Instructors encourage students to communicate as often as they need their desires to not receive or to receive feedback via touch throughout the semester. Additionally, this permission to use or to not use tactile cues may vary from class to class, moment to moment and it is the priority of the Dance Division that students feel safe in our studio classrooms. All instructors will respect the body autonomy and any communication from the students.*

Course Policies

- Keep a positive, focused attitude towards your work and the work of your peers in class. **Interpersonal hostility, bullying, and the like will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave if you cannot abide by this policy.**
- **Appropriate dancewear** must be worn for this course.
 - o All students must dress in clothing fit for movement. To ensure safety for everyone in the class, please wear stretchy, form fitting clothes.
 - o No jeans, no skirts or dresses, no short shorts, no large jewelry.
 - o Long hair must be secured off the face.
 - o Only Jazz shoes can be worn during class. Bare feet also permitted.
 - o No socks except for during warm-ups/stretching.
- **Cell Phones**
 - o Your cell phone should be SILENCED or OFF and put away in your bag during class.
- **No food, drink, or chewing gum in the classroom.**
 - o You are encouraged to bring a closed water bottle.
- **Be prepared and ready for class.**
 - o You are expected to be familiar with class information and assignments posted on Brightspace. This will enable you to participate fully in class and will contribute to your success in the course. You are expected to be on the floor and dressed appropriately by the start of class.
- **Please have a positive and supportive attitude.**
 - o As a member of this class you are part of a community. Respect for your instructor and your peers is expected. The quality of your participation, including proper attire and attitude will factor into your grade.

IMPORTANT: Late work will not be accepted. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited on all assignments, and failure to submit original work may result in a “0” on any given assignment.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance & Participation (20%): Attendance is imperative to the study of any physical form, and is contingent with participation. Attendance grades are calculated at the end of the semester.

- **Observation Days:** Two observations are allowed if you are not feeling well physically, mentally, or emotionally. Written observation notes must be submitted on Brightspace at the end of class. These notes should follow the guidelines posted on Brightspace, and serve as a reflection of the class concepts discussed. The use of cell phones is not permitted during observation days.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Being late for class is equal to half of an absence.
 - If you arrive more than 5 minutes late and we are not yet dancing, you may join but your attendance will be marked as LATE, which counts as half of an absence.
 - If you arrive more than 5 minutes late and we are already dancing, please do not join and complete an observation. Your attendance will be counted as an observation, not a late. You are allowed 2 observations for the semester.
- **Injuries and illness:** If you are injured and mobile, you are still required to attend class and participate as fully as you are able, or use one of your four allotted in-person observation days.
 - If you are unwell and possibly contagious, please do not come to class or consider wearing a mask.
 - If you are unwell and not contagious, you may come to class and participate at your discretion, or take an observation.
- **Prolonged injury or sickness:** Students who do not meet the participation requirement for any reason may need to repeat the course. Students whose injuries affect participation on a long term basis are advised to follow one of these options:
 - Take an incomplete in the course -- students considering this option should contact their advisor first.
 - Request a medical withdrawal.
 - Withdraw from the class.

Assignment 1: Introduction Letter (10 %) DUE Thursday 8/31 by 11:59pm on Brightspace

Students will answer questions posted on Brightspace in 1-2 typed, double spaced pages. You may also submit this assignment as a 1-2 minute video or sound file. Be detailed and specific in regards to your goals, and methods of achieving your goals. More information posted on Brightspace.

Assignment 2: Progress Journal (10 %) DUE Thursday 10/12 and Thursday 12/05 in class

Students will keep a journal and make weekly entries (total of ~13-15 entries) that will be collected during class twice on 10/12 and 12/05. Each entry should include a detailed list of steps and concepts learned/worked on that week, as well as explanations how to do the step. Entries should also include dictation of any choreography learned and reflection on the week overall. More guidelines posted on Brightspace. The journal can be kept in a paper notebook or you can submit a weekly entry on Brightspace under the assignment, or wait and turn in entries on the two due dates.

Assignment 3: Reading Responses (20 %, 5% each) Discussion boards are DUE for each reading/viewing, after they are discussed in class, by Friday at 5pm, and you must respond to two other students' posts by Sunday at 5pm.

We will have 4-5 readings/viewings this semester. Each will be available on Brightspace or linked in the course calendar below. Readings will be discussed on the date they are assigned, so please read them in advance of class. Discussions in class will not take the entire class time, so please still dress to move on these days. Each student must complete an individual discussion board following the class discussion, by Friday evening of the same week. Each discussion board is worth 5 points. See rubric in Discussions on Brightspace.

Assignment 4: Movement Assessments (30 %, 15% each) DUE Thursday 10/05 and Tuesday 12/05 in class

On these dates, class will be filmed in segments. Students will proceed with the usual class warm up, execute across the floor patterns, and will perform selected combinations/choreography learned to date in small groups and be evaluated on the Technique & Performance rubric (found on Brightspace). Students will receive individual feedback that will provide guidance beyond the class.

Assignment 5: Reflection Letter (10%) – DUE Friday 12/08 by 11:59pm

Students will answer questions posted on Brightspace in 1-2 typed, double spaced pages. Be detailed and specific in regards to any improvements you've made throughout the semester. Include new goals or discoveries you've made this semester. More information on Brightspace

Extra Credit (5%): More details to come.

Grading & Assessment %ages:

- Intro/Reflection papers- 20% (10% each)
- Progress Journal- 10%
- Reading Responses– 20% (5% each)
- Movement Assessments - 30% (15% each)
- Attendance & Participation – 20%

TOTAL – 100%

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **Credit/Time Statement:** This studio/technique course is worth 2 credit hours. Each hour of credit requires 110 minutes of in-class work per week as well as an expected 60 minutes of out-of-class work per week for reading, rehearsal, research, group projects, and individual work by students.
- **Disability Resources Center & Accommodations:** Purdue University is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming experience for all students. To that end, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the office designated by Purdue to provide services, resources, and programs to facilitate equal access for disabled students, resulting in their full participation in curricular and co-curricular offerings. For more information on how to request academic accommodations, please visit <https://www.purdue.edu/drc/>. All accommodations must be documented through this office or the Dean of Students to assure your needs will be met in this course.

- University Policies: Please go to the Content tab on Brightspace and view the “University Policies and Statements” and “Student Support and Resources” folders for more information on the following university policies that this course observes:
 - Mental health, Wellness, and Basic Needs Security,
 - Engaging in Your Learning
 - Purdue’s Web Accessibility Policy
 - Accessibility Standards in Brightspace
 - Purdue’s Student Guide for Academic Integrity
 - Nondiscrimination Policy Statement
 - Office of the Dean of Students: Class Absences
 - Academic Regulations: Attendance
 - Amorous Relationships
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Violent Behavior Policy
 - Use of Copyrighted Materials