

Division of Dance  
Rueff School of Design, Art, & Performance  
Purdue University

**DANC 10100-025 & -026: MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUE I (2 credit hours)**  
**CRN: 16523 & 16524 Instructional Modality: Face-to-Face**  
**SPRING 2023 MWF 11:30-12:20 pm**  
**Yue-Kong Pao Hall (Studio 1171)**

**Instructor:** Renee Murray  
**Email:** murra113@purdue.edu  
**Dance Division Phone:** 765-494-5993  
**Office:** Yue-Kong Pao Hall 1108  
**Student Consultation hours:** by appointment, face-to-face and virtual are available upon request

#### CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the techniques and principles of modern dance.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVE

Through this course you will gain the basic skills of modern technique, which will focus on the development of proper body alignment, coordination, strength, flexibility, spatial awareness, appropriate terminology, awareness of musicality and rhythm, and artistic expression in movement. We will explore and develop these basic skills of modern dance through various exercises, evaluations, and performances. Additionally, students will gain knowledge of modern dance through concert attendance, written assignments and classroom discussions. Material in class builds sequentially and expands exponentially, thus emphasis will be placed on mastering techniques and skills as they are presented in order to progress.

#### COURSE GOALS

1. Develop a basic working knowledge of elementary modern technique.
2. Develop proper body alignment and maintain while moving through space.
3. Execute fundamental movement skills and exercises in modern technique.
4. Understand basic human anatomy and modern dance vocabulary while using it properly in class and in written assignments.
5. Move with attention to rhythm and tempo of musical accompaniment.
6. Begin to develop a sense of personal expression and artistry through movement.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Attendance

Each class focuses on a specific topic that is not repeated with the same detail in following classes, and each class builds on the last. When you miss class, you lack knowledge for the next class. To keep your participation grade high, it is best not to miss two or more classes in a row as this creates a vacuum in your knowledge. If you must take an absence, it is the student's responsibility to seek help to learn missed movement material from their peers or the instructor.

**Only three absences are allowed before your final grade average will drop.** Excused absences require a letter from the university. Each additional absence will lower your final grade by 5 points.

4 absences = ½ a grade drop	100 – 5 = 95%
5 absences = ½ a grade drop	95 – 5 = 90%
6 absences = ½ a grade drop	90 – 5 = 85%

In case of injury, please refer to Division of Dance Attendance Policy and discuss the matter with your professor.

If you are not feeling well, do not come to class. Illness is considered an absence. Use your three absences wisely. Please communicate any concerns regarding absences as soon as possible. Communication is key to a successful semester. You are always welcome to wear a mask in class if you are feeling under the weather. If you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 please test.

**B. Promptness**

You are considered tardy if you arrive after attendance has been called. If you enter after I have begun teaching, you must sign the tardy sheet at the door to make sure your attendance is accounted for. If you are more than fifteen minutes late to class, you will not be allowed to participate in class and will receive an absence. Three tardies equal one full absence. Leaving class early will also result in a tardy. Remember **it is your responsibility to sign the tardy sheet if tardy. If you enter class tardy and forget to do so you will receive an absence for that day.**

**C. Proper Attire**

Wear dance clothing such as light dance pants, sweats or leggings, tank tops, t-shirts/long or short sleeves, solid colors are recommended. You may bring layers to keep warm. You will be asked to remove bulky layers once class has begun. Make sure you are supported with the necessary under garments. Make sure proper hygiene is followed. No bulky jewelry and no gum. No outerwear. Clothing cannot have buttons, rivets, or zippers; these damage the dance floor. Hair must be secured away from the face, even if it is a shorter haircut. I must be able to see your eyes at all times.

**If you are not wearing proper attire you will not be allowed to take class and will receive an absence or observation day for that class. This decision is made at the discretion of the instructor.**

The Division of Dance is not responsible for any stolen items. We provide lockers in the dressing rooms for your belongings. To keep your belongings safe, you are to bring your own lock and lock-up these possessions during your class period only. Shoes have been stolen as well as other expensive items such as computers and wallets. Therefore, consider also locking up your shoes along with your other possessions. **Belongings are not allowed in the studio.**

**D. Submitting Assignments**

You must submit assignments on Brightspace. Some assignments will be completed in class and will be turned in in-person. **Late assignments will receive a 5% deduction with each day the assignment is late. Always keep a copy of your submitted assignments for your records. If you are having trouble completing an assignment on time, communicate this challenge to the instructor as soon as possible.**

## EVALUATION

Participation	25%
Vocabulary Quiz	5%
Assignments	30%
Movement Exams & Quizzes	20%
Choreographic Project	10%
PCDC Concert Viewing & Assignment	10%

*It is strongly discouraged to take is course pass/fail. If a student does so, their grade will not follow this grading scale. It is the student's responsibility to speak to their instructor to obtain the pass/fail grading scale.*

### A. Participation

Your participation in this course is vital for your learning and development. This grade is based on the quality and consistency of your participation in class. Your participation grade is cumulative. Therefore, strong participation requires that you are completely present and attentive to instruction throughout class, you voice yourself in discussion, you assert yourself fully in all exercises and you do not socialize with others. You develop yourself with each class. Poor participation is reflected by being unfocused, distracted, and not physically asserting oneself in movement combinations and exercises - in this case you are unable to follow directions well, apply feedback, or improve your skill. Your overall grade suffers quickly when you do not fully participate.

*Cell phones & smart watches:* From the time class begins at 11:30 a.m. through my dismissal, all cell phones & smart watches must be turned off and put away. They are not allowed in class. If you are caught with a phone or smart watch during class, you will receive a 0% for participation on that day.

### B. Vocabulary Quiz

You will be given one vocabulary quiz this semester that will cover terms learned in class and on the vocabulary handout. We will review prior to testing.

### C. Assignments

#### **Written Assignments, Reading Responses, and Personal Evaluations**

Participation in this course will involve movement assignments, in-class writing assignments, reading responses, written assignments, and personal assessments. These assignments are designed to incite critical thinking in regard to the moving body and artistry of modern dance. Assignment requirements and due dates will be posted on Brightspace and/or handed out in class.

### D. Movement Exams

Movement exams are skill-based assessments and will cover material addressed throughout the semester. These grades are based on your growth, effort, and understanding of the movement material performed and applying proper technique to dynamic movement. The movement exam rubric will be posted on Brightspace prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> movement exam. If you are unable to attend a movement exam, you must contact your instructor immediately to discuss your conflict and the resolution.

**E. Choreographic Project**

You will work with a group of your peers to create a piece of choreography. Further details and guidelines will be posted on Brightspace closer to the date of your choreographic project.

**F. PCDC Concert Viewing & Assignment**

You will watch the **Purdue Contemporary Dance Winter Works Concert** and analyze one work from the concert through a modern dance lens. The concert critique paper is due Wednesday, December 13 via Brightspace. **Student tickets (\$12.00) can be purchased at any campus box office or thru Ticketmaster.** Students in all dance classes are required to attend this concert, fulfill an assignment given by the instructor based on their experience, and provide proof of ticket purchase. There is no substitute or make-up for this assignment. Please place the dates of the concert in your calendar.

**Purdue Contemporary Dance Winter Works Concert**

Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm & Saturday, December 9 at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm  
Hansen Theatre, Pao Hall

<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
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**Consent Practice**

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.

**Nondiscrimination Statement**

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. A hyperlink to Purdue's full Nondiscrimination Policy Statement is included in our course Brightspace under University Policies and Statements.

**Purdue Writing Lab**

If you would like editing and proof-reading assistance on your written assignments, please see the Purdue Writing Lab. The Purdue Writing Lab is located at Heavilon Hall 226, Purdue University, West Lafayette campus. To make a tutoring appointment, call 765-494-3723. For more information, see their website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/writinglab/>

**Brightspace**

I will be using Brightspace to facilitate communication, post announcements, and distribute course documents and assignments. It is your responsibility to check Brightspace regularly. **All assignments will be submitted via Brightspace.**

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**

Purdue University is committed to making learning experiences accessible. If you anticipate or

experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or by phone: 765-494-1247. <https://www.purdue.edu/drc/>

### **Mental Health/Wellness**

**If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#).** Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

**If you need support and information about options and resources,** please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

**If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc.,** sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect.

**If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students.** If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

### **Basic Needs Security:**

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing [integrity@purdue.edu](mailto:integrity@purdue.edu) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace under University Policies.

### **PURDUE HONORS PLEDGE**

As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do.

Accountable together - we are Purdue.

<https://www.purdue.edu/provost/teachinglearning/honor-pledge.html>

**You may not record, post and/or disseminate any materials and videos from our class.**

### **CAMPUS EMERGENCY**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. My email, [murra113@purdue.edu](mailto:murra113@purdue.edu), is a way to get information about changes in this course. All updated information will be posted on Brightspace.

**NOTE: *This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. All changes will be posted on Brightspace.***