

Performance Practicum
(DANC 220/420, 221/421, 222/422, 223/423)

Course Description

This class will teach the dancer how to be successful in the rehearsal and production setting.

Through the rehearsal process students will be taught professionalism, responsibility, how to work as a team, how to prepare the body for rehearsal, and how to fully bring themselves to the choreographer's work.

From the beginning of the process to the final completion of the project (performance) you will be an integral part of the creative process. Each choreographer will have a unique way of working. By participating fully in the choreographer's process you will be gaining valuable experience as a performing artist, and for your own future creative work.

You will also be building your reputation as a professional artist in the field. Whether you are working with your classmates, upperclassmen, graduate students, faculty, or guests, your work ethic and rehearsal etiquette will be discussed and future casting will be influenced by your current choices. Dance is a very small field!

Objectives

The major objectives of this class are:

- to dance with substantial physical, technical and performative skills,
- to integrate individuality with technical training through focus, phrasing, confidence and self-direction,
- to engage in the creative process with openness, curiosity and energy,
- to demonstrate self-direction in preparing for the physical and intellectual challenges of the rehearsal process and performance,
- to exhibit professionalism and respect as a member of an artistic community.

Requirements, Rights, and Responsibilities

TOP PRO

Timely, Organized, Prepared, Professional, Responsible, Open

Timely – being ready to go, ON TIME

- Be on time for every single rehearsal
- Be warmed up, focused, and ready to dance at the start time for the rehearsal (this is not a time to catch up on texts and conversations)
- During the tech period be signed in at the performance space by your call time

Organized – learning to manage your schedule and honor your commitments

- Attend every rehearsal - proper attendance is MANDATORY
- Any conflicts must be pre-arranged with the choreographer
- In the case of contagious illness, you must contact your choreographer ASAP
- In the event of an approved missed rehearsal, it is your responsibility to learn missed

material prior to the next rehearsal

Prepared – be ready for rehearsal

- Arrive to the rehearsal BEFORE the start time, and warm your body up appropriately. If the work requires a specific warm-up, you will be expected to learn and do this warm up prior to each rehearsal.
- Review material from previous rehearsals PRIOR to the rehearsal starting. This may mean reviewing material on your own outside of rehearsal time.

Professional – treating your choreographer and fellow dancers with respect

- CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE TOLORATED. This means no calling OR TEXTING during rehearsal (even if you are not dancing at that moment)
- Stay connected/focused on what is happening in the rehearsal. If the choreographer is working with another group of students, stay attentive to the process.
- Do not use any “down time” to review material from another dance.
- Treat your fellow dancers with respect as you all go through the very personal process of creating a dance.
- Treat every member of the tech crew with respect.

Responsible – treat yourself with respect

- If you should sustain an injury, see Kim Hardin immediately. Contact your choreographer right away and discuss the situation realistically. Do not dance on the injury before Kim approves, but understand that the choreographer may have to choose to replace you to get the work completed on time.
- If a warm-up class is provided you must attend the warm-up class. If a class is not provided, it is expected that you will perform your own warm-up.
- If you have to miss a rehearsal, you should make a personal call to the choreographer prior to the rehearsal to let them know.”

Open – embracing a variety of aesthetics and processes

- Participate in each rehearsal to your fullest capability, even if you don’t understand the choreographer’s process or agree with their aesthetic choices.
- Be willing to undertake any creative task the choreographer assigns.

Adult Material

At times you may be asked to work on pieces that may include “adult material” (understood in this context as references to violence, injurious language, nudity, sexuality, or intimate acts). A piece with “adult material” will either be announced at the auditions, or the choreographer may decide to include during the creative process. If at any time you feel your personal boundaries have been compromised in any manner, you have the right and responsibility to communicate your concerns with the choreographer and/or Head of the Department/Thesis advisor without ramifications to your grade or your standing in the department.

This right extends throughout the process, from initial audition to creative explorations through final determinations of the shape of the piece. If difficult situations arise that make you uncomfortable, it is your responsibility to communicate this directly to the

choreographer. If the situation cannot be resolved and you feel that after due consideration you cannot participate in the work, you must *immediately* inform the choreographer, giving them ample time to find solutions for your absence.

POLICY ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGE.

- Students that are on departmental probation will not be allowed to audition, rehearse or perform during their probationary semester.
- Ongoing training in technique class is mandatory for a performing dancer. Students that are performing, or working in rehearsal on a project for performance in a departmental concert, must attend technique class on a regular basis. Students with excessive absences in technique class may be removed from the cast of a piece and/or not be allowed to audition in the following year.
- We view performance as a privilege – you must be a good member of our community to earn this honor. Students with poor attendance or poor grades in departmental classes may be removed from the cast of a piece and/or not be allowed to audition in the following year.

Grading

Evaluation and grading of your work will be calculated as follows:

Work in the rehearsal process	40%
Punctuality; preparing the body for rehearsal; retaining information from previous rehearsals; contributing to the creative process; ability to remain focused during the rehearsal period; ability to perform the required material; ability to make a substantive individual contribution to the dance	
Performance	40%
Ability to apply skill, concentration, and imagination to the work;	
Professionalism during tech week	20%
Punctuality; preparing the body for performance (participating in the warm up classes); treating fellow dancers and all crew members with respect; completing any required work during strike	

POLICY REGARDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

At the time of casting students may accept or decline any choreographers invitation to participate in a project. Once accepted, you have entered into a contract of obligation with your choreographer(s), your peer community, and the department.

You are given a conflict form at the time of audition and it is expected that any and all conflicts with rehearsals and/or performances be indicated on that form. Should something of serious consequence, such as illness, injury or emergency of any sort arise during the rehearsal period requiring your absence, you will immediately contact your choreographer(s) personally by phone.

Should events arise requiring, by your request or unforeseen circumstance, a *rupture of your contract you must contact your choreographer(s) and the Department Head personally and immediately.

*Rupture: Numerous absences from or excessive lateness for rehearsal(s)
Request to leave project for any reason

**Consequences for a rupture in your contract will be decided by your choreographer(s), Department Head, and Concert Director.

Date:

Concert:

I have read the Performance Syllabus and the Policy Regarding Undergraduate Student Performance Contract and agree to all the terms therein. I understand there will be appropriate consequences if my contract is broken.

**Consequences include:

Possible expulsion from this work
Failing grade in the course
And/or limitation in future auditions

NAME (performer) _____
PRINT

SIGN

CHOREOGRAPHER
