# DNCE 201 Introductory Contemporary Dance I

## Fall 2019

**Instructor**
- Heather Ware

**Office**
- heather.ware@ucalgary.ca

**Email**

**Office Hours**
- By appointment

**Day(s), time(s) and location of Class**
- Tuesday & Thursday 12-1:50 p.m.
- KNA 163

**Learning resources:**
- Students are required to attend 2 contemporary dance performances during the session. Performance suggestions include:
  - **Fluid Festival**, October 15-27/2019
    - www.springboardperformance.com
  - Rehearsal outside of class for final project as needed.

**Supplementary Fees**
- This course requires a mandatory supplementary fee of $78 payable at registration

**Prerequisites**
- None.

**Course description**
- Introductory study of the techniques of contemporary dance.
- Course Hours: 3 units; (2S-2)
- Notes: Not open to Dance Majors. A supplementary fee will be assessed to cover additional costs associated with this course.
- NOT INCLUDED IN GPA

**Course overview**
- This is an introductory technique class, aiming at building the dancers physical awareness as well as gaining an (experiential) perspective on the possibilities of contemporary dance, contemporary choreography, and the role which dance can play within today’s society.

  The class starts with understanding natural human movement patterns, and focuses on the ability to co-ordinate and converse deconstruct the body’s natural co-ordination. The movement combinations are created to trigger the connection between brain and body and to understand the different muscle tensions possible within our movement. The relation of the body to the space in which we move plays a crucial role. Anchored in contemporary dance technique there is focus on weight and momentum, curving and twisting the spine, finding a balance between release and stability. We will progress through a series of simple standing exercises into more complex combinations that move in and out of the floor.

  The classwork will aim to awaken our senses, enlivening both internal and external awareness.

  The class will also offer insight into choreographic creation process. Class material is (partially) derived from choreographic tasks, and the dancers will be given the underlying tasks upon which the material is based. The tasks are built upon the search for the physical language to embody relevant ideas, and ask for the dancers to be both emotionally open and physically creative.
### Course learning outcomes

By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Move through the world with a developed awareness and understanding of their bodies
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of contemporary dance technique
3. Have an appreciation of the range of physical and expressive possibilities within the field of contemporary dance
4. Extend their knowledge of contemporary dance through a series of introductory performance analysis and through an introduction to basic creative / choreographic studies
5. Have a wider appreciation of the role dance can play within a functioning society

### Course schedule

**Physical classwork:**

- **September:** 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26
- **October:** 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
- **November:** 5, 7, 19, 21, 28
- **December 3, 5**

**Video viewing and assignment:**

October 1 & 3

**Mid-term assignment (in-class presentation & self-evaluation):**

October 8

**Individual preparation for final assignment:**

November 26

**Final assignment (in-class presentation):**

December 5

**Mid-term break (no-classes):**

November 12, 14

### Assessment components

This is a pass/fail course. To achieve a pass you must FULLY complete all of the requirements below:

**Assignment 1: Attendance and participation**

**Assessment Method:** Evaluated over the entire course session

**Description:** FULL participation is required through the entire class time; you must arrive on time, dressed to dance, having reviewed previous class material. Your pre-class preparation should include a warmup of focus, mobilization, and strengthening and stretching activities. All students must bring a water bottle, and working barefoot is recommended. Students are expected to notify the teacher of any injuries which may result in limited (physical) participation and solutions will be sought together with the teacher.

Students are expected to explore all material deeply and intelligently, and join in class discussions, fulfil all class assignments and contribute to the collective learning environment. As the course content is cumulative, **more than four (4) missed classes will result in failure to pass** the course. Non-participation through
any part of class can be assessed as 1/2 an absence (this includes late arrivals or early departures); i.e. 2 such classes are equivalent to a full absence.

**Assignment 2: Performance Review**  
**Value:** Must be completed to receive a PASS  
**Due Date:** Within 5 days of having attended the performance(s)  
**Description:** All students are required to select and attend 2 contemporary dance performances during the session, submit the ticket stub(s), and write a short (150-300 word) response to the work(s). Response should include why you selected this performance, why you consider it to be a contemporary dance performance, and should attempt to place the work in relation to today’s society.

Performance selection list:

Fluid Festival, October 15-27/2019  
[www.springboardperformance.com](http://www.springboardperformance.com)

Making Treaty 7, October 10-18/2019  

To the Awe, November 2019  
[https://totheawe.ca/UPCOMING](https://totheawe.ca/UPCOMING)

Alberta Ballet  
[https://www.albertaballet.com/frankenstein](https://www.albertaballet.com/frankenstein)

**Assignment 3: Self-evaluation**  
**Value:** Must be completed to receive a PASS  
**Description:** Students will perform a movement assignment at midterm, and complete a self-evaluation. Details will be discussed in class.  
**Due Date:** October 8 (In-class presentation)

**Assignment 4: Movement Study**  
**Value:** Must be completed to receive a PASS  
**Description:** Students will create and perform a one minute movement study utilizing elements of the class material and course work. May be created in solo or duet form. Details will be discussed in class.  
**Due Date:** December 5 (In-class presentation)

**Assignment 5: Class journal**  
**Value:** Optional  
**Description:** Students are encouraged to bring a writing book to class, to reflect and absorb their dance experiences. Teacher will not ask to see this journal.

**Assessment expectations**

**Expectations for Writing:**  
Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.

**Expectations for Attendance and Participation:**  
Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.3 Attendance for details.
Guidelines for submitting Assignments: Written assignments will be posted on D2L. Performance assignments must be completed in class.

Division of Dance Attendance Policy
Due to the experiential nature of this course, classes are equivalent to assignments. Therefore, classes missed will be detrimental to the final grade. More than four missed classes will result in failure to pass the course. Non-participation through any part of class can be assessed as 1/2 an absence (this includes late arrivals or early departures); i.e. 2 such classes are equivalent to a full absence. If for some reason you are feeling unwell during class time, a substitute form of participation may be arranged; however, you may not obtain this privilege more than once and you will receive half an absence. For studio courses, if you opt out of full participation and choose to sit for a portion of the class, this will be counted as non-participation and will be marked as half an absence. Students are responsible for any and all material missed during an absence.

Grading scale
For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2019-2020 OR as outlined in the section H.1 Distribution of Grades of the Graduate Calendar for 2019-2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Approaching excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Exceeding good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Approaching good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Approaching satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as &quot;Not Included in GPA&quot; where applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**I</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as &quot;Not Included in GPA&quot; where applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.
- The following numerical rubric will be applied:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97.6-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.6-97.5</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.6-89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.6-87.5</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.6-79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.6-77.5</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.6-69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.6-67.5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-62.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Support

Please visit this link for a concise list of UCalgary’s student support services:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines

Academic integrity, plagiarism

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html; ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html) and are reminded that plagiarism—using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people’s words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device

elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/
ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app

The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor’s policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor. For more information on Freedom of Information and Privacy visit: ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip

Copyright

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.