

**Eastern Oregon University**  
**College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS)**  
**Course Syllabus**

**NumberofCourse:** DANC221

**NameofCourse:** Topics in Dance - Jazz

**ClassDescription:** The basics of dance as it pertains to the performance of Musical Theatre will be explored. The course will focus on Jazz. An in-depth study of Jazz, tracing its roots from African-American traditions to its evolution into a vibrant and influential art form. We will explore foundation Jazz techniques, rhythm, and movement, while engaging in its cultural, historical, and theatrical contexts. Emphasis will be placed on dynamic performance, skills, musicality, and personal expression. This course encourages creativity and provides a comprehensive understanding of Jazz dance as both a technical discipline and an artistic practice, especially in the musical theater world. No prior dance experience is necessary; the course is designed to support performers at all levels in cultivating a strong physical awareness and movement vocabulary.

**CreditHours:** †

**RequiredTexts:** *Dance as a Theatre Art*

**RequiredMaterials:** Proper dance/movement attire

**Prerequisites:** None

**LearningOutcomes:**

1. Students will learn basic moves in different dance styles, plus proper stretching and flexibility.
2. Students will learn the proper names of dance steps and proper techniques.
3. Students will learn about the history of the dance styles, their beginning and the famous dancers that lead the way.
4. Students will learn the choreographers who changed the dance forms to be what we have today and how they pushed the limits in the dance world.
5. Students will learn how to put dance steps together to create a combination(s) that can be interpreted into a dance.
6. Students will learn the ways in which to listen to the music to hear the different beats and rhythms to use in their dance choreography plus certain words that they can use to act out while dancing.

7. Students will look at the musical dances they review from a choreographer's perspective and analyze what is being told in the dance, what style is used, what dance form is predominant and pick out some dance steps.
8. Students will learn the importance of dance benefits – why it is important for your health but physically and mentally.

**Course Requirements:**

1. The majority of this class is graded on attendance and participation 2.
- Midterm – 2 page paper analyzing a musical theatre dance piece of your choice
3. Final – Your Choice:
  - a. A) choreograph 8-10 (8) counts to a musical theater piece of your choice using the dance steps we have practiced and others you'd like to incorporate
  - b. B) 4-5 page paper – Famous Choreographer

**Attendance Policy:**

The majority of this class is graded on attendance and participation. It is imperative that students show up to class on time and ready to start. Unfortunately, you can lose a whole grade if you do not attend. 5 unexcused absences is an automatic fail

<b>Grading Policies:</b>	<b>Points:</b>
Total possible points from Attendance	= 200
Total possible points from Participation	= 200
Weekly Quizzes	= 90
Total points from Midterm Paper	= 100
Total Points from Final Performance	= 100

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 Total possible points 690

95%-100%= A	80%-83%= B-	67%-69%= D+
90%-94%= A-	77%-79%= C+	64%-66%= D
87%-89%= B+	74%-76%= C	60%-63%= D-
84%-86%= B	70%-73%= C-	Less than 60%= F

**Means of Assessment:**

1. Attendance and classroom participation. (L.O. 1-8) (APC, CK, CT)
2. Growth and continued improvement throughout the term. (L.O. 1-8) (APC, CK) 3. Weekly quizzes. (L.O. 1-4) (APC, CK)
4. Midterm paper will analyze a musical theatre dance piece. (L.O. 1-4, 7)(CK, CT)
1. The final performance will utilize terminology, movements and concepts from throughout the term. (L.O. 1-8)(APC, CT, CK)

**General Education Outcomes and Criteria:**

Artistic Process and Creation (APC): The ability to employ creative processes, and display a conceptual understanding of their function.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Content Knowledge (CK): Demonstrate increased vocabulary, content, and conceptual knowledge in a breadth requirement.

Critical Thinking (CT): Identifies and explains issues, recognizes contexts and assumptions, acknowledges multiple perspectives, evaluates evidence to reach conclusions.

### **Brief Outline of Course:**

Explore where the genres began, eras, famous dancers and famous choreographers who pioneered the dance world and musical theater world. Learn the proper name to dance steps and learn basic technique. Analyze your favorite dance performance from a musical and research what the choreographer was using as dance forms, history of the choreographer, how the music and dance relate to each other, etc; plus take all dance steps or genres learned and choreograph a small piece to a separate musical number.

This course is based highly on participation and is run like a dance studio course. Come to class prepared in proper attire and ready to move. We will work on technique, alignment, correct body form, exploring improvisational dance, etc.

### **Statement on Academic Misconduct:**

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these. (Please see the Student Handbook online at <https://www.eou.edu/student-affairs/student-handbook/>). Please also refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) for standards of behavior.

### **Accommodations/Students with Disabilities policy:**

Eastern Oregon University's Disability Services Office (DSO) provides students with disabilities equal access for successfully meeting their academic needs and higher education goals.

Following the guidelines established by the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), we serve students with physical, psychological, medical, visual, hearing, or learning disabilities. The Disability Services Office provides and promotes a supportive, accessible, non-discriminatory learning and working environment for students with disabilities. Located on the second floor in Loso Hall 236, the Disability Services Office is open Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. After-hours appointments are available upon request.

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation for any type of disability please contact the Disability Services Office.