

University of Utah
School of Dance: Ballet Program
BALLE 2300: Character Dance I
Fall 2017

Prerequisite(s): Full Major status in BALLE or Department Consent

Course Meeting: 2:00pm – 2:50pm; T/H; MCD 40

Components: Studio

Instructor: Justine Sheedy-Kramer

Email: justine.sheedy@utah.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

First semester of a two-semester sequence for departmental majors. Must be taken consecutively in the same academic year. Folk dance study based on ethnic (character) dances within a ballet performance context. 1 Credit.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is for students to improve their technical skills and artistry in character dance forms, and also to gain a deeper understanding for character dance styles and history. Upon successful completion, students should:

1. Be able to demonstrate a stronger technical skill level for character dance.
2. Perform basic character dances used in classical repertoire, as well as associated folk styles.
3. Develop a broader understanding of ethnic styles taught in the course.

Suggestions for Successfully Completing BALLE 2300

1. Attend class daily and on time. Be aware of absences that will affect final grade (review Ballet Student Handbook for policies).
2. Come to class mentally and physically prepared. This includes bringing water to stay hydrated and eating well to perform at your physical best.
3. Review combinations and etudes, as well as any study guides provided, to prepare for exams and quiz days.

Dress Code

Women: Standard character skirt and character shoes, any solid color leotard and pink tights.

Men: Character shoes, jazz shoes or boots, any solid color tights and form fitting t-shirt.

Castanets and tambourines are provided. Students may supply their own.

Grading

Participation: Improvement, Work Ethic, and Presentation	60%
Midterm Practical Exam	10%
Final Practical Exam	20%
Written Assignment	10%

Attendance

This is a participation course and the University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Attendance is critical to the development of classical ballet technique and is an integral part of the discipline of both ballet and character dance. Please review and make note of the Important Dates

listed below. Should you have any questions or concerns about the syllabus, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification.

As per department policy, two absences are permitted (this includes injuries, illness, and any other emergencies), and the course grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade for each additional absence. Attendance will be tracked via Canvas. A combination of 3 tardies equals one absence. One observation is allowed for mild illness or injury, and class notes must be turned in to receive credit. If prolonged injury or illness prevents you from participating, you may be able to petition for a course credit reduction or medical withdrawal (details in the Ballet Student Handbook). Participation will be graded following each 3-4 week session and will be based on work ethic, improvement, commitment to class, dress code, presentation of barre and center material, and overall preparedness for class.

Midterm and Final Practicum

The course will be divided into four sessions of barre and center work, with the second and fourth sessions comprising the midterm and final exams. Etudes and repertoire material will be developed throughout the semester and will also be included in the exam material. The exams will be videotaped for grading purposes and for student self-assessment.

Written Assignment: Character Dance and the Classical Ballet

Students will select one of the following ballets (additional options at instructor's discretion) to analyze the function of character dance. Using a provided worksheet, students will examine the style, nationality, music, costuming, and other important identifying traits found in the character dance segments; create connections between class material and the performance choreography; and develop a hypothesis regarding the possible purpose of the different character dances within the overall plot of the ballet.

Coppélia
Don Quixote
La Source

La Sylphide
Paquita
Petrushka

Raymonda
Swan Lake
The Nutcracker

It will be necessary to find a full-length recording of quality, either at the library or via the internet. The worksheet and associated written work is due via Canvas before midnight of the last day of class, Thursday, December 7.

Important Dates

Midterm Practical Exam: Thursday, October 5, 2:00pm to 2:50pm

Final Practical Exam: Thursday, December 7, 2:00pm to 2:50pm

Written Assignment due: Thursday, December 7, by midnight

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.