



Beginning Theatrical Dance (App 206)

Spring 2022 Syllabus

Credit Hours 1

Semester 2: 27 January to 5 May

Thursdays / 3:00 pm – 4:20 pm

50 Oak / Osher Salon

Joan C. Walton / jwalton@sfc.edu

What this course promises you

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is a mixed-level approach to historical dance and choreography, covering all eras from Baroque through the 20th century. It is aimed at building a basic understanding of historical theatrical dance movements as well as an introduction to core conditioning, flexibility, and dance technique. All levels are welcome. The purpose of this class is for all participants to gain a better understanding of character-driven historical dance and how to adapt it for the stage. Through basic historical dance technique, one can cultivate a more confident and commanding presence for all types of performing.

LEARNING OUTCOME

You will have the opportunity to explore dance from the first-hand perspective: from different techniques to the context of movement style through dance history. A short choreography for each era will be taught, new ways of physical communication will be discovered. You will gain valuable practical experience and develop the tools necessary for performing choreographed movement on stage.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Date	Description
1/27 – 2/10	Warmups; Baroque dance and deportment
2/17 – 3/10	Early 19 th century dance; Regency styling
3/24 - 4/14	Mid- & Late-19 th century dance and deportment
4/21 – 5/5	20 th century dance and deportment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The activities to be covered on any given class will be specified in the weekly schedule you will receive. Here is a list of possible topics, activities, and opportunities you may receive to enhance your knowledge and skills.

- Performance practice skills in a variety of styles; Baroque through 20th century
- Learning a short choreography from each era
- Correct deportment and posture for each era

How will you fulfill these promises

To realize these promises you must take responsibility for your own learning and participate as an active learner. You need to become part of a learning community that we will create through engaging in the participation of and discussion about historical deportment and dance. Most of the semester will be spent on our feet, exploring the limits of our theatrical bodies. Over the course of the semester, as you explore using your body in a structured, movement-based curriculum, please think critically about how physical movement can be used as a tool on stage.

Attendance

Students are expected to arrive promptly and attend each class meeting in its entirety.

If you arrive after attendance has been taken, please make your presence known to the faculty at the earliest appropriate moment. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

In the event you must be absent due to illness or a serious emergency, please email the instructor prior to the start of class.

Preparation, Class Participation, Etiquette

We learn as much by watching others as we do by doing; therefore, observing the work of your classmates and faculty is key to your success at SFCM. You are expected to be attentive and engaged in all sessions. Cell phone use and other forms of electronic communication are not permitted during class, and phones will be stored off-body during the class. We encourage each student to keep a class journal and to make notes, write down thoughts, questions and, generally, keep record of the learning experience. Handouts/prompts will be provided throughout the semester.

MISCELLANEOUS

COMMUNICATION

We will communicate with you using only your SFCM email address; therefore, you are expected to check your SFCM email account daily. Please respond to any email inquiries in a timely manner (i.e., within 24 hours, and preferably the same day). Schedule updates, other announcements, and opportunities will also be sent via email or on the Classroom platform.

Joan Walton

Dance Instructor

jwalton@sfc.edu

DRESS CODE

All participants are required to wear appropriate attire. Leotards and tights are not expected; however, outfits that one would wear to work-out in are recommended (Please no jeans or street clothes as they will inhibit movement). It is mandatory that you have jazz or ballet shoes; women may wish to use character shoes for some eras, but are not required.

[How you and I will best come to understand the nature and progress of your learning](#)

I will help you think about and understand your own learning and thinking so that you can better take charge of that learning. You will keep track of your progress and be encouraged to meet with me to monitor your progress. At the end of the semester, you should be able to assess your own work and make an argument about where you are in your learning. This is not just about how well you dance, but about the understanding of skills and where you stand, your strengths and weaknesses.

GRADING POLICY

This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is taken very seriously at SFCM. All students sign an Academic Honor Code at the beginning of each academic year, as follows:

Understanding that honesty in the pursuit of knowledge is the only reliable measure of what has been learned, I hereby acknowledge that I am expected to honor and uphold the following academic standards:

I will neither give nor receive aid on exams or other required in-class or take-home work, unless otherwise instructed. I will not plagiarize in any form. Plagiarism is “taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgement and with the intention that they be credited as the work of the deceiver.”

If you are confused about what, specifically, constitutes plagiarism, please speak to the professor, or an advisor in the Student Academic Enrichment Center (SAEC).

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with SFCM policy and equal access laws, students must register with the Office of Student Affairs in order to receive academic accommodations. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

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