Course Description:
Fundamentals of ballet is a 2 credit studio course introducing ballet technique to the beginning student.

Course Goals:
Students will be able to:
- Identify and perform the basic technical elements of ballet;
- Demonstrate appropriate studio etiquette;
- Apply kinesthetic perception in order to self-evaluate and self-correct.

Class Format:
As this course is intended for students with little or no dance training, the class will use lecture, discussion and studio work to introduce the ballet, its history and its aesthetics. The lecture and discussion will help the student recognize and articulate key terminology and criteria for aesthetic judgment in this form of expression. The studio work, including barre exercises and center and traveling sequences, will be performed in small groups as well as individually in order to help the student develop creativity in expressing themselves and a kinesthetic awareness for self-evaluation.

Dress Code:
The student is responsible for arriving to class dressed in appropriate dance clothes.
- Women: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers
- Men: Black tank or dance tee, dance belt, black tights/leggings, black ballet slippers
- Hair: Worn securely off of the face, no bangs.
- Jewelry: Small post or hoop earrings only

Course Requirements:
Attendance and Participation (500 points)

Attendance
Regular attendance and in-class participation are integral components of all dance classes. Attendance will be taken at each class and students are expected to attend every class. Students may miss no more than 2 classes without penalty to their grade. Each absence afterwards will negatively affect their grade.

In May 2011, the University Senate and President passed a new policy for granting excused absences, which can be found at http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html. A student may provide a self-signed note when missing a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, with the understanding that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. Self-signed notes are not accepted during “Major Scheduled Grading Events.” Specific questions concerning the TDPS policy on non-consecutive medical absences should be addressed with the Head of the Cluster.

Students claiming an excused absence must apply in writing and furnish documentary evidence for their assertion that the absence resulted from one of these causes. (Undergraduate Catalog, pages 36 & 37 or go to: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html) Whenever possible, instructors will make a reasonable effort to re-schedule in-class presentations for students with an authorized excused absence. Students should check the specific requirements of their courses carefully, however, as such re-scheduling is not always possible.
Participation
Just showing up for class does not mean that the student will necessarily be awarded all participation points. The student must be prepared, participate fully and be engaged in the material. Students’ participation grade will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Adherence to dress code
- Classroom etiquette
- Personal growth/technical development

Observing Class
If you are well enough to attend class, but unable to dance, you will write an observation paper to turn in at the end of the class. Failure to turn in an observation paper at the end of the class will result in an absence for the day. Note: You will not receive full credit for observing class. The observation paper should include the following:

- What is the purpose of the exercises?
- What sort of feedback has been given regarding the exercises?
- What aspects of the exercises do your fellow students do well?
- What aspects of the exercises continue to challenge your fellow students?
- How can you apply your observations to your own dancing?

Mid Term Practicum (100 points) March 7, 2013
The mid term is a practical exam based on a ballet class format including barre work and center and traveling sequences. Students will be videotaped and asked to turn in a written evaluation of their performance: how have they changed from the beginning of the semester, what progress they hope to make for the next practicum, and what they need to achieve those goals.

Final Practicum (100 points) April 30, 2013
The final is a practical exam based on a ballet class format including barre work and center and traveling sequences. Students will be videotaped and asked to turn in a written evaluation of their performance and how it has changed over the course of a semester.

Written Assignments
Critical Response Paper (100 points)
Students will choose 1 live performance to attend from the choices listed below and write a response paper on their experience. Students must discuss the artistic choices (space, speed, energy, emotional intent, music, visual elements) that they notice, what those choices mean to them and how they connect to their ballet class. The paper must be in 12pt font with 1” margins and is due within 2 weeks of the performance. The last date that papers will be accepted is Thursday, April 30, 2013. Please turn in a hardcopy of the critical response paper. Emailed papers will not be accepted.

Self-Evaluations (50 points each) Due: February 5 and May 9, 2013
Using the performance evaluation rubric, students will assess their comprehension and mastery of movement, its technical components (alignment, use of turn out, weight distribution, port de bras, quality of the legs and feet and body coordination), kinesthetic awareness, spatial awareness and musicality. Students will discuss the challenges they discovered as well as the progress they have made in the class and anything else they wish to discuss, positive or negative, about their experience in the class.

Quizzes
Syllabus (10 points) Thursday, January 31, 2013
Final Project (100 points) May 7 and 9, 2013

Using the movements or concepts that resonated most strongly with you and your lab group, you are to create a short group dance that will be performed in class. Please do not regurgitate class sequences. The goal is to take the information you have learned and create something new. Grading will be based on clarity of ideas, creativity in adapting the ideas, and teamwork. If you are unavailable to perform, you must notify me within the first two weeks of classes.

Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>1000-970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>969-930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>929-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>899-870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>869-830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>829-800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>799-770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>769-730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>729-700</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>699-670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>669-630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>629-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>599-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A+, A, A- denotes excellent understanding and/or mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship
- B+, B, B- denotes good understanding and/or mastery of the subject and good scholarship
- C+, C, C- denotes acceptable understanding and/or mastery of the subject
- D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding and/or performance of the subject
- F denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance

Students are required to earn a grade of at least C-in their major and have a minimum 2.0 Cumulative GPA in their major in order to graduate. [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html)

University Policies:

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY:** University of Maryland Policies and Procedures Concerning Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observances provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed because of individual participation in religious observances. Students are responsible for obtaining material missed during their absences. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. The student should provide written notification to the professor, by hand (not through email or mailbox delivery) within the first two weeks of the semester. The notification must identify holiday(s) and date(s). [http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii510a.html](http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii510a.html)

**ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES:** The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities that have been documented by Disability Support Services (0106 Shoemaker Building, 301-314-7682). A disability should be verified and discussed with Disability Support Services and the student should provide an “Accommodation Letter” to the professor or TA. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this class, please contact the professor or TA no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. For more information: [http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/](http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/)

**HONOR CODE:** The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, proposed and administered by the Student Honor Council and approved by the University Senate. The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads:

*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.*

Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all exams, papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this
course. Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor. Please recognize that all students are subject to the requirements of the University's Code of Academic Integrity whether or not they write and sign the Honor Pledge. For more information: http://www.orientation.umd.edu/VirtualFolder/academicintegrity.pdf

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY: University of Maryland is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which students, faculty, and staff can develop intellectually, professionally, personally, and socially, free of intimidation, fear, coercion, and reprisal. The Campus prohibits sexual harassment which is a violation of law and University policy. Individuals who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. The University has procedures in place to report sexual harassment and correct it when it occurs. Students who have questions may call the Campus Compliance Officer (301-405-2839), or the Legal Office (301-405-4945). To read the entire Policy see Appendix B in the Undergraduate Catalog. http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html and http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/52/s/943.

Special Note:
Teaching involves “hands on” corrections and guidance. This is a way of informing your body through tactile cues, and has been integral to dance classes throughout the ages. Areas that respond especially well to tactile guidance are the legs, arms, head and neck, and torso (back, ribs and shoulders). However, tactile cues can vary from student to student. If you are not comfortable with this type of “hands on” training, please speak with your teacher privately.