

Class Participation in Department of Dance Courses 2020-2021

It is the CSULB Department of Dance perspective that attendance and engaged participation are essential to progressing towards your educational and career goals. However, we understand that illness, injury, and/or lasting disability can occur during the course of the semester. We strongly encourage students to prioritize their mental and physical health, and to be proactive in consulting with head Athletic Trainer, John Siegel and their faculty to alert them of any concerns.

The Department is suspending use of its Departmental Attendance Policy, but will continue to follow the CSULB Attendance Policy. Please read the full policy statement here: <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate/policy-statement-17-17-attendance-policy-supersedes-01-01>

According to University Policy, excused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Illness, injury to the student, or medical conditions, including those related to pregnancy
- Death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member. An immediate family member is defined as a close relative, or a person residing in the immediate household of the student.
- Religious reasons (California Education Code section 89320)
- Jury duty, military service, or other government obligation
- University-sanctioned or -approved activities (examples include but are not limited to artistic performances, participation in scholarly conferences and presentations, intercollegiate athletic activities, student government, required class field trips, etc.)

Faculty members are not obligated to consider other absences as excused.

Students should consult with the faculty member about whether verification is necessary for excused absences. Faculty members may only require students to provide verification for repeated or successive absences (three or more instructional hours), or absences on the days of tests, presentations, and other graded activities. If verification is required, students should provide it to the faculty member within one week of the date of the last prior absence.

*As a courtesy, please notify your faculty at least one week in advance of any planned excused absence(s).

Evaluation and Grading in Studio Dance Courses

Studio-based courses such as technique, improvisation, composition, BFA workshop, directed choreography, etc., are assessed in both objective and subjective manners. Depending upon the course content, an instructor will assign a grade typically having evaluated: technical and performance-based skills and development, completing all

course assignments including written work, reading and viewing materials, participation and effort, and progress made during the term. Students are encouraged to work closely with their instructors to clearly understand each instructor's course requirements and grading guidelines, pertinent departmental agreements, and their own responsibilities to the community of learners in the class.

Please include the statement, below, in course syllabi. The suggested placement of this statement is that it goes before the BMAC statement in the syllabus, and that the BMAC statement have more prominence in its placement within the syllabus.

Disabilities vary in spectrums, and include physical disabilities such as mobility impairments, visual impairments, speech/mute/hearing impairments, & invisible disabilities as well, such as learning disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, and other neuro-divergent disabilities. CSULB dance faculty are committed to making their classrooms accessible and welcoming safe spaces for disabled students, and to empowering themselves to learning about and amplifying disability as an identity, culture, and historical value, in order to maintain a sustainable inclusive dance community and environment for all. This includes being sensitive to supporting the mental health of disabled students.

Absences in Dance Courses

Students are encouraged to attend every class session and successfully complete course requirements. In the case of an absence, students are strongly encouraged to keep in communication with their instructor(s) and discuss plans for learning missed material and/or for making up missed assignments.

As a standardized departmental agreement, attendance and behavior such as "attitude" will not be used as a means of grading dance courses; instructors will grade student "performance" that can be measured through established criteria. Participation may be used as a means of grading, as long as the criteria for participation are clearly articulated. Therefore, unexcused absences and repeated tardiness will only affect final grade calculations in the category of participation when the student has not kept in communication with their instructor(s) to develop alternative means for making up missed work.

Tardiness

Students are encouraged to arrive early/on-time for each class period. Students will be given a grace period and should proactively communicate with their faculty regarding what constitutes tardiness in the course. In the case of frequent tardiness, the student and instructor are encouraged to create open communication to prevent further disruption(s) from the students learning, and/or create reasonable accommodations together (if applicable).

Studio Attire

The Department of Dance recognizes that, in many instances, dance studio attire has historically reinforced Eurocentric and heteronormative practices that discriminate against

or erase dancers' skin color and/or cultural backgrounds, and enforce gender binaries. While some dance genres require uniformity of appearance in class, each student's identity, personal expression, and cultural background will be given full consideration within attire guidelines.

Instructors will communicate class attire in the course syllabus. Guidelines for class attire will take into consideration the following: dress codes will not be based on gender binaries, or contain unnecessary binary distinctions. If an instructor requires a special garment for class (e.g. unitards, leotards, practice skirt, etc.) they will communicate this in the syllabus and provide accessible alternatives to ensure equity.

Students are expected to follow these guidelines. If a student has questions or concerns about class attire, they should consult with the instructor. While still following the guidelines above, class attire may change as the semester progresses, depending on movement material and at the discretion of the instructor.

Illness & Injury

Students suffering from an illness (mental and physical) or injury that results in missing more than one week of class should seek medical care, if feasible, and should contact their faculty to discuss a participation plan. This may involve arranging a substitute project, make up exam, or in some cases the need to drop the class, if the illness or injury is ongoing and severe. Students will not be asked to provide a doctor's note when they miss class due to illness or injury. Yet, an instructor may ask for confirmation of other types of excused absences (see the CSULB Attendance Policy for a full explanation).

If you need to miss class, please communicate promptly with the faculty. You can do this in two ways: 1) email your instructor(s) directly, or 2) complete the "Reasons for Class Absence" form (found under Student Resources/Frequently Used Forms) and email the form to your instructor(s).

Injured students are encouraged to work with the Head Athletic Trainer, John Siegel, in supervised strengthening and rehabilitation exercises via Zoom. Faculty and student should consult with the Athletic Trainer as to the feasibility of using class time for this rehabilitation program.

If you are ill or injured but still able to attend the class session, please consult with your faculty about strategies to modify and adapt your practice so that you are able to participate in some manner.

Strategies for modification and adaptation include but are not limited to the following, which may be done in combination, as appropriate:

- 1) adapting movement to a prone or seated position (e.g. floor barre or chair work, or a combination),
- 2) translation of movement (e.g. creative alternatives in body movement),
- 3) reduction of range of motion,
- 4) elimination of injured areas and augmentation of other aspects of movement,
- 5) movement visualization,

- 6) active peer-critique,
- 7) class observation writing responses,
- 8) acting as an assistant in class.

Instructors will maintain interaction with students who are adapting movement and students should also maintain active participation in class to their fullest ability.

The decision to drop a movement-based course should be made in conjunction with the instructor, student, Athletic Trainer, and the Department Chair, and may also involve the student's physician. Once a student has completely recovered and has been cleared to return to class, the student may audit the course for the remainder of the semester on a non-credit basis. Permission to return to class as an auditor must be obtained from both the instructor and the Department Chair.

Use of Touch in Dance Pedagogy

Touch is a common method for helping students to learn a dance form and can be an effective tool for imparting kinesthetic information such as alignment, initiation, and spatial/bodily orientation. Please notify the instructor if you are uncomfortable with this method of instruction so that alternative cueing methods can be substituted. Instructors or students should receive affirmative consent before initiating physical contact. A clear explanation of which area(s) of the body will be touched should occur prior to each application of touch.

Recommendations for Class Conduct

If possible, arrive early to class in order to prepare mentally and/or physically for class. Use the time before class to breathe, relax, and find internal focus.

Use of cellphones, computers, and other electronic devices are permitted at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the nature of the course.

Please work to create a space of open dialogue and community.

Receive, share, and apply feedback in a productive manner.

Treat each other with care and avoid making assumptions based on stereotypes and cultural biases.

Be mindful of unnecessary conversation and how it impacts your attention, and the ability of others to focus and learn.

Stay focused on material presented in class/rehearsal and avoid working on material from other courses/rehearsals during that time.

Work safely and effectively in class and allow others to do so.

If you are coping with an issue that may impact your participation, please talk to your instructor before class begins so, together, you can strategize on your participation for the day.

In the event of an injury or sudden illness, alert the instructor immediately.

Keeping our Studios Clean and Safe

Shoes worn outside of the studio, even in hallways and the courtyard, are considered "street shoes" and should NEVER be worn in the studios. This is a safety issue: shoes worn outside often carry glass or small rocks and debris. When carried into the studio, injury or illness could result from this debris and it may damage the floor.

Please do not bring food or drink in the studios with the exception of water in non-breakable containers. CSULB Dance recommends that students use reusable water bottles for technique class and take advantage of the hydration station on the first floor. Students should inform faculty of any nutritional needs that require accommodations (e.g. the need to step outside the class to have a quick snack for health reasons).

Students should never allow non-dance majors to work in studios unless supervised by their instructor, and should never give studio entry codes to non-dance majors.

Students must bring a towel to every technique class to wipe up excessive sweat from the floor. To help keep studio floors clean and safe for everyone, students should avoid applying lotions to bare skin within 30 minutes of participating in technique classes. Lotions can create dangerous "slick spots" in the Marley dance floors.

Every studio contains a Biohazard Kit for use in cleaning up any sort of biohazard exposure during a technique class or a rehearsal. All blood spills and bodily fluids such as vomit are considered biohazards and must be dealt with properly. Biohazard Kits are mounted on the walls near the telephone in each studio. Clear instructions for disposing of a biohazard spill or exposure are inside each kit, however studio instructors and Head Athletic Trainer John Siegel will also train any individual in the proper way to handle such a situation. All red biohazard disposal bags should be brought to the main office or the Dance Clinic for proper and final disposal. If any Biohazard Kit is missing supplies, please contact the Dance Clinic at X57076, or contact the main office.