

## Honors Choreography Syllabus Fall 2024

Instructor: Ms. Brianna Little  
Room: G-03  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

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Phone: Weaver School Number

***Please sign and return the bottom portion of the last page by Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>***

### Course Description:

A study of dance composition through explorations of choreographic theories and design. Students will study the process of creating dance through a series of structured exercises and explorations of choreographic tools and forms. Each student will create a dance composition to be presented at the end of the semester in a public showing.

### Course Objectives:

- The student will create dances using appropriate movement choices; choreographic principles, structures, and processes; and production elements to fulfill choreographic intent and meet aesthetic criteria (A.CP.1.1).
- The student will create dance based on an analysis of movement choices and structural forms used in a variety of significant American dance works (A.CP.1.2)
- The student will monitor the use of personal aesthetic criteria to guide the creative process in dance (A.CP.1.3).
- The student will generate innovative solutions to movement problems with personal choreography and the choreography of others (A.CP.1.4).
- The student will create dance for performance based on ideas, experiences, feelings, concepts, images, or narratives that have personal meaning or social significance (A.CP.1.5).
- The student will monitor appropriate behaviors and etiquette in a variety of dance roles (dancer, performer, choreographer, and observer) in order to maintain a positive and supportive environment (A.CP.2.1).
- The student will integrate performance values when creating and performing dance (A.CP.2.2).
- The student will evaluate personal performance in dance using feedback from a variety of sources (A.CP.2.3).
- The student will critique dances in terms of multiple aesthetic and cultural criteria (A.R.1.1).
- The students will analyze how the major movement ideas, elements, and structures of dances are developed to create meaning (A.R.1.2).

### Required Materials:

- 3-ring binder, folder, or notebook designated as your *Choreography Notebook* that will contain your syllabus, handouts/grading rubrics and your notes on the choreographic process; this will be collected and graded periodically.
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Pen or pencil
- Google Drive (may be shared with other classes)
- Access to class website (school computers are available)
- Access to computer with document software (school computers are available)
- Personal email account (can create your own email account for free using Gmail, Yahoo, etc.)
- Water bottle

\*\*\*Weaver Academy AND the Weaver Academy Dance Department are NOT responsible for missing belongings—USE YOUR LOCKER AND LOCK (both are provided)! \*\*\*

**Dress Code:**

Due to the physical nature of this class, students are required to change into appropriate dance clothing that will allow for movement. Dancers will lose five points per day if they do not dress out in the required dress. Students will not be allowed to go to their car or regular locker to get clothes.

*Required dance dress may be purchased at Carolina Dancewear located at 1627 New Garden Road (336-856-9983) or online from dancewear companies such as [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com) or [www.dancedistributors.com](http://www.dancedistributors.com).*

<b>Honors Choreography Class Supplies</b> <i>All large or obstructive jewelry should be removed.</i>	
<b>Clothing</b>	Solid color leotard, tights or fitted dance shorts, short/long sleeve solid color top, solid color jazz/yoga pants.
<b>Hair</b>	Hair neatly pulled away from the face in a ponytail, braid, or bun. Short hair should be slicked back, pinned, and away from the face.
<b>Performance</b>	Nude colored leotard with support (if necessary) but NO PADDING. Dancers should have clean shoes and tights at performance time. Black dance shorts for use under costumes (recommended).

**Attendance and Make-Up Work:**

- Any missed work must be made up before/after school, at home, or during lunch. Missed work must be made up within three (3) days of returning to school.
- Students must communicate to Ms. Little about make-up work once they return to school within three days.
- Students need to be in the studio before the tardy bell rings. The school tardy policy will apply. Excessive tardiness will affect grades due to the importance of participation in this class. Students will be given five (5) minutes to dress out at the beginning and end of class.
- Students with excessive absences due to illness, family matters, etc. will need to meet with Ms. Little to set up a plan to make up work and time missed.
- School tardy policy (please refer to the Weaver Student Handbook for the ENTIRE policy). Below are some highlights:
  - Tardies are cumulative for the quarter. They start over each grading period.
  - Parents will be contacted after a student has three (3) tardies and the case will move to administration after four (4) tardies. It is expected that students will be on time to class and ready to work.
  - For the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) tardy and any subsequent tardies per grading period, the student will be assigned a consequence which may include lunch detention, make-up time, or in school suspension (ISS).

**Grading Scale:**

A: 100—90

B: 89—80

C: 79—70

D: 69—60

F: 59 and below

**Grade Calculations:**

30% Participation

50% Major Assessments: projects, tests, papers, major movement studies

20% Minor Assessments: quizzes, classwork, homework, notebook checks, minor movement studies

Students and parents will be able to find updated grades through *Home Base (Powerschool)*.

**Late Work Policy:**

- A fifteen-point deduction will take place for all late assignments.
- Once three school days pass your grade will be and will remain a zero.
- Assignments are to be turned in on or before the due date time in Canvas, otherwise it will be considered late.
- You should communicate with your teacher regarding any planned absence from class regarding assignments or due dates.

**Work Expectations:**

- You must take responsibility for your own academic progress (i.e., read the articles, do your own homework, etc.). Cheating, borrowing others' ideas, and plagiarism will be dealt with following Weaver Academy's policies.

**Absences:**

If students are absent (excused or unexcused), they are expected to come during lunch, before school, or after school to make up participation points through tutorials, dance practice, or dance activities. Class time will not be granted for this. You will have three days to make up work for each absence.

**Extra Help:**

- I am pleased to provide extra help for students who need make-up sessions due to absences or for those who desire additional assistance.
- I am available by appointment only; let me know at least 24 hours in advance.
- You may use my email account, but only for school related work. Do not send forwards or other miscellaneous items. This email to [littleb2@gcsnc.com](mailto:littleb2@gcsnc.com). Emailed questions must be sent by 4:30pm each night – you will receive a response within the next 48 hours.

**Physical touch:**

Physical touch will be used by the instructor and between students as a form of feedback in this class.

**Honor Code:**

Weaver students are expected to demonstrate exceptional character. As a reminder about the importance of integrity, students must agree to abide by our code of honor:

*I will abide by the Weaver Honor Code. I will not give or receive unpermitted assistance in the preparation of any work or assessment that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading.*

**Participation:**

- Each day counts for 8 points for participation. It is essential for students to participate fully throughout dance class in order to build their own technical and artistic ability.
- If students are absent (excused or unexcused), they are expected to come during lunch, before school, or after school to make up participation points through tutorials, dance practice, or dance activities.
- Participation points are calculated as follows:
  - Being ready (dressed out and hair done) for class five (5) minutes after the tardy bell
  - Required dress code and hair pulled back appropriately
  - No chewing gum or eating
  - No talking while instruction is being given, clarifications being given, questions being answered, classmates are dancing, etc.
  - Dancing fully throughout the class (warm-up, teaching, learning, showings, performances, etc.)
  - Being a respectful audience member during performance observation in class, as well as in the theatre
  - Focused on class and class objectives (student is not focused on appearance, technology, or other classes' work)

- Once you leave the dressing room for class, you will NOT be allowed to re-enter the dressing room space, participation points will be deducted for reentering the dressing room space
- When you make up an absence for participation, there will be a form that must be completed by the students that states what day you missed, what you missed, and what you did to make it up. Ask Ms. Little prior to your make-up time what you missed. You have three (3) days to make up participation points! After that, your grade stands.

### **Sitting Out:**

In the case of temporary injury or non-contagious illness, students are expected to observe class. Students should follow the "Observation Handout" supplied by Ms. Little; only **one observation day is allowed**. For serious injuries and illnesses, a doctor's note will be required. During observation, take notes, type them, and submit them in the next class meeting. If notes are not received by the next class meeting, the participation grade will be recorded as a zero (0).

### **Concert Attendance:**

- Attendance at ALL scheduled dance concerts is MANDATORY.
- If there is a concert that you are not performing in, then you are expected to be a part of the tech crew.
- Attending all concerts is essential in your continued growth as a dancer and performer. Much of what occurs during a performance is hands-on and can only be taught in a "practicum" experience.

### **Interventions:**

Any student who is earning a "C" or less during the grading period will be required to meet with the instructor to develop a plan for improving. As per the PVA handbook, students must maintain an unweighted "B" semester average or higher in each required area course or risk possible reassignment to their home school.

### **Dressing Room:**

Use of the dressing room is a privilege. Students are responsible for keeping the area clean at all times. Ms. Little will do weekly dressing room checks in which the dressing room should be found neat and tidy. There is a trash can and lost and found basket to be used accordingly. Please be diligent in where you place your personal belongings, so they do not become mixed up with your classmates' belongings. Once you leave the dressing room for class, you will NOT be allowed to re-enter this space.

### **Technology:**

- During dance class, we will use technology daily.
- We will use various means of musical input. Students should NOT use the studio sound system without Ms. Little's permission. CD players and recording devices that belong to the Weaver Academy Dance Department will be used during class and rehearsals only with Ms. Little's permission.
- Students' personal iPods, iPads, laptops, MP3 players, CDs, etc. will be allowed only during work time for choreography.
- Cell phones are NOT permitted during class for any reason. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be kept in the SILENT/OFF position and in the cell phone holder in front of the dressing room. A ringing electronic device in the dressing room is just as disruptive as it would be sitting in the studio.
- Ms. Little will follow the Weaver Academy Electronic Device Policy consequences if a student is found to be using their device.
  - Weaver Academy Electronic Device Policy: Per the Weaver Academy Student Handbook, students are not allowed to use electronic devices (including cell phones) during the school day. Use of electronic devices is permitted on campus before school, during lunch, and after school. Electronic devices may not be used between classes. The first violation of this policy

will result in confiscation of the phone for one (1) school day, after which time a parent will be required to come to the Weaver Academy Main Office to reclaim it.

*Weaver Academy's Dance program is rigorous and challenging. Through a strong application, interview, and audition you earned the privilege of being a part of our program. Through hard work, commitment, and proper behavior, you will keep that privilege.*

### Studio Expectations

Expectation	What does this look like in OUR studio?
<b><u>Demonstrate Integrity</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a respectful and humble audience member &amp; a productive performer</li> <li>• Respect fellow dancers, Ms. Little, guest teachers/ choreographers, and studio/equipment at all times</li> <li>• Wear appropriate dance shoes on the dance floor</li> <li>• Respect each other's space, time, and opinions</li> <li>• Respect yourself</li> </ul>
<b><u>Always be Accountable</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participate every day in all activities, unless you have a doctor's note</li> <li>• Stay focused &amp; manage time throughout class</li> <li>• Be present mentally, emotionally, and physically</li> <li>• Arrive to class ON TIME</li> <li>• Be properly dressed out, hair back, and no gum or lotion for dancing within 5 minutes post tardy bell</li> <li>• Complete all tasks in and outside of class</li> <li>• Attend all rehearsals &amp; performances required</li> </ul>
<b><u>Negativity Free Zone</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring positivity into the studio</li> <li>• Always try—never say "I can't"</li> <li>• Do not put judgment onto others or yourself</li> <li>• Provide constructive feedback</li> </ul>
<b><u>Creativity</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep an open mind to new ideas whether it is about a dance, music genre, or a classmate's style</li> <li>• Push your own creativity &amp; movement boundaries</li> <li>• Take risks—you are in a safe place</li> </ul>
<b><u>Expect Excellence</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen and apply helpful criticism</li> <li>• Ask questions</li> <li>• Attend dance tutorials &amp; practices</li> <li>• Seek assistance in or outside of class</li> <li>• Push and encourage fellow dancers</li> <li>• Attend live dance performances</li> </ul>

### ALWAYS STRIVE TO:

- Demonstrate integrity through your actions, words, and relationships.
- Always be accountable to your peers, teachers, and self.
- Bring a positive attitude because the dance studio is a negativity free zone!
- Push your creativity through your movement and learning.
- Expect excellence of yourself inside and outside of the dance studio.

**Golden Rule:** The dance studio at Weaver Academy will be a safe, respectful, and open place for EVERYONE. I have a ZERO tolerance policy for bullying, foul language, and derogatory remarks.

## Performance Policy

Performance is the culmination of our work as dancers. It is the result of hard work in the studio and out, and an important process in your dance training. As performance is an exciting and stressful time for all involved, it is essential that dancers behave with the utmost respect and sensitivity.

### Weaver Academy Dance Department Performance Policy is as follows:

1. **All performances are mandatory.** Performance dates are given at the beginning of the school year, and again at the beginning of the second semester, and are posted on the calendar on Weaver's website. Performance is a large part of your overall final grade. All dancers are expected to be at the studio or on stage at call time. Call time for all concerts is 5:00pm.
2. **All rehearsals are mandatory.** Rehearsals are during the school day and sometimes after school. Tech week rehearsals are the week of the performance, three days prior to the concert date, after school. Students should be mentally and physically present for the entirety of each rehearsal. If you have a conflict with a tech rehearsal, please notify the instructor within the first week of the semester. It is essential that all dancers are present for tech week rehearsals.
3. Dancers should complete the sign-in sheet located on the dressing room door at the beginning of every tech rehearsal and concert. When a dancer signs in, they are letting the instructor know they are ready mentally and physically to perform. DO NOT sign other dancers in—it is the sole responsibility of each dancer to complete this important task.
4. Once dancers have completed group warm-up, they should not leave the dance room for any reason, except to use the restroom. Dancers should not be seen wandering the halls, gathering in the parking lot or lower/upper commons, going to their cars, etc.
5. Parents, families, and friends are NOT allowed into the dance studio, dressing room, or backstage areas during tech rehearsals or concerts.
6. Absolutely NO TALKING backstage.
7. Treat the tech crew with utmost respect. They are doing us a huge favor!
8. If you are unable to perform due to extenuating circumstances such as injury, you will be given an alternate assignment that will be recorded as your performance grade. While the performance experience cannot be replaced, your research assignment will be of comparable scope, depth, and time commitment as the rehearsal and performance process.
9. You are responsible for keeping track of your costumes. After the final performance, they must be returned and signed in.
10. Dancers must understand that their bodies are the instruments of dance and that they are expected to follow all performance procedures including, but not limited to removing all body piercings, removing nail polish, covering tattoos, following requirements for hair style, and having all appropriate undergarments.

### Performance supplies:

- Warm up clothes (something warm, as it gets very cold backstage)
- Nude colored leotard with support if necessary, but NO PADDING
- Clean and sewn ballet shoes (pink and/or black) and tights
- Makeup: foundation, eye shadow, mascara and liner, blush, lipstick
- Hair supplies: brush, hair ties, bobby pins, hairspray and gel (especially dancers with short hair or layers), etc.
- Water bottle—do NOT drink water when wearing your costume!
- Items specific to your costume

### Dressing Room (during performances):

Please keep your dressing room clean and neat. Remove all belongings following the last performance.

### Costumes:

Keep all costumes in your basket or on a hanger. Costumes will be signed in following the concert.

#### Hair, Makeup, Jewelry, and Tattoos:

- For ballet, hair is in a bun with no bangs. If you have bangs, you will need to bring hair clips and hair gel/spray.
- No painted fingernails or toenails. No body glitter.
- All jewelry including earrings and body piercings must be removed.
- Tattoos that are not covered by a costume must be completely covered with makeup. Please exercise the utmost caution and do not get makeup on your costumes!

#### **Consequences for Unmet Expectations:**

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Student/Teacher Conference

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Parent Contact

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Office Referral

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On the following pages, please find:

1. Assignment summary
2. Performance calendar—please share with family and friends!
3. Studio Emergency procedures

<b>Assignment Summary</b>
<p><b>Weekly Grade:</b> Students earn a daily grade ranging from 0 to 8. The weekly grade is based on physical preparedness (proper class attire, appropriate hair, punctuality, etc) and effort/participation in class activities. Weekly grade points are earned by participating in class. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the instructor to discuss make-up work due to absences. Make-up work must be submitted within three (3) days of returning to school.</p> <p>A.CP.2.1: The student will monitor appropriate behaviors and etiquette in a variety of dance roles (dancer, performer, choreographer, and observer) in order to maintain a positive and supportive environment.</p> <p>I can follow studio/classroom procedures.</p> <p>I can adhere to class dress code.</p> <p>I can be on time.</p> <p>I can demonstrate respect toward teachers and choreographers.</p> <p>I can be consistently physically and mentally prepared for class.</p> <p>I can grasp and retain sequences, combinations, and choreography.</p> <p>I can demonstrate independent work practices within the class.</p> <p><b>40 points/week</b></p>
<p><b>Choreography Notebook:</b> You will keep a notebook to organize your notes and worksheets you receive throughout the semester. Make sure to keep this organized and have it with you for every class. See <a href="#">rubric</a> for more information.</p> <p>Two announced due dates: <b>Thurs, Sept 19th and Oct 17th</b></p> <p>Also collected at <i>unannounced</i> times throughout 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</p>
<p><b>Composition Essentials:</b> As a choreographer, you are asked for program information, tech notes, and lighting ideas. You must also make sure your costumes are set and your music is turned in. See <a href="#">rubric</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Due Thurs, Jan 9th</b></p>
<p><b>Choreographic Process Worksheet:</b> Using the process from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, you will compose a written analysis of your peers' choreography. This <a href="#">worksheet</a> will serve as a planning page. This is an ongoing assignment and needs to be filled out as your process continues.</p> <p><b>Due Mon, Jan 13th</b></p>

**Performance and Peer Evaluation:** In this class, you will also be dancers in the compositions of your peers. You will therefore be evaluated on your consistency and reliability as a performer. Choreographers and dancers will submit feedback to the instructor, which will be taken into consideration for this portion of the grade. See [rubric](#) for further information.

**Due Wed, Jan 8th**

**Final Composition:** Original compositions will be presented at the Senior/Choreography Concert in the spring. You will have an informal showing before the fall semester ends to take place as your final exam grade. Costumes will be mandatory however hair and makeup will be up to the choreographer's decision. See [rubric](#) for how your work will be graded.

**Informal Showing- Friday, Jan 10th**

*Senior/Choreography Concert- Thursday & Friday 2/15 and 2/16 at 7:00pm*

**Movement Assessment:** You will take note of and reflect on your process to make sure you are on track for a polished composition. The questions to be answered can be found [here](#).

**Due Mon, Nov 18th**

Additional Assignment Information:

*The final exam/technique assessment may NOT be exempt from the Attendance Merit.*

\*Rubrics for assignments will be provided in a timely manner and available on the Canvas site.

\*Ms. Little reserves the right to change, modify, add, or delete assignments at any time.

\*All written work must be typed. Proper English is expected.

\*Hard copies of written work are due at the beginning of class (unless otherwise specified) on their due dates.

**Late assignments will be recorded as a zero.**

## **Weaver Dance 2024 – 2025 Season**

### **Fall Concert**

**Thursday and Friday, November 21 and 22 at 7 pm**

### **Senior/Choreo Concert**

**Thursday & Friday, February 13 and 14 at 7pm**

### **Spring Concert**

**Thursday and Friday, May 8 and 9 at 7 pm**

**All performances are held at the Weaver Academy Theatre:**

**300 S. Spring Street in Greensboro, North Carolina**

**General admission: \$5 cash only, at the door**

## **Dance Studio Emergency Procedures**

There are two exits in the dance studio: one is at the hallway leading to the Digital Media and Vocal classrooms, and the other is an outside exit to the Art patio and Medical Careers trailers.

### **Injury**

Ice can be retrieved from the Culinary Arts Department in the event of injury, we also have limited ice packs. The first aid kit is across from Ms. Little's desk. There are also band-aids in a labeled drawer next to Ms. Little's computer. The girls' dressing room also has a sink with soap.

### **Fire**



Use the outside exit, pass to the side of the Medical Careers trailers, and meet the teacher and the rest of the class in the McGee Street parking lot.

**Tornado**

Use the exit to the hallway leading to the Digital Media and Vocal classrooms. Take position in the hallway against the walls.

**Lockdown**

Enter and stay in the dressing room area. Ms. Little will secure all doors. Use of electronic devices and talking are prohibited.

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***Honors Choreography Fall 2024***

*I have read and understand the syllabus and the rules and consequences for dance class. I take responsibility for my own actions and plan to contribute to the Weaver Dance community in a positive manner. I have looked at the performance schedule and will be present at all rehearsals and performances. I understand that the rehearsal and performance process is an important aspect of Weaver's dance curriculum and my development as a dancer. I understand that missed rehearsals and performances will result in a significant grade deduction.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_