

## Contemporary Dance Syllabus Fall 2024

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

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***After reading through, please sign and return the bottom portion of the last page by Tuesday, September 10th.***

### Course Description:

Designed for highly motivated dancers with previous dance experience. Students will follow the advanced dance standards outlined in the NC Arts Honors Standards dance portion. Students will understand, identify, and demonstrate movement elements, skills, and choreographic principles, processes, and structures.

### Required Materials:

- Proper dance attire (guidelines can be found in the “dress code” section)
  - Water bottle (there is a water cooler in the studio for dancer use ONLY; however, cups are not provided)
  - Pencil or pen
  - Spiral bound notebook
  - Folder
  - 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.)
- \*\*\*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 allows for movement. Dancers will lose points per day if they do not dress out in the required dress. Students will lose 5 points for dressing out partially. Students cannot go to their car or regular locker to get clothes.

\*\*Students are NOT allowed to put on lotion before and during dance class. Lotion on the dance floor can lead to injuries, as it makes the floor slippery. Refrain from using lotion until the end of your dance day.

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

<b>Dress Code and Supplies for Contemporary Movement Study</b> <i>All large or obstructive jewelry should be removed.</i>		
<b>Leotard</b>	Mirella camisole leotard in black (style number M201L). This leotard has a built-in shelf bra, and additional garments should not be worn underneath.	Fitted cap sleeve black T-shirt OR Black unitard.
<b>Tights</b>	Black footless tights (Capezio style number 1817 or Bloch style number T0940L). NO SOCKS.	Black footless tights rolled to the waist and dance belt OR Black unitard, dance belt. NO SOCKS.
<b>Other</b>	A fitted solid color shirt—any color Black capris and/or black dance shorts Black long sleeve ***	A fitted solid color shirt and black jazz pants worn over are permitted in cold weather.
<b>Hair</b>	Hair neatly pulled away from the face in a ponytail, braid, or bun. Short hair should be slicked back and pinned.	Hair short or slicked back away from face.
<b>Performance</b>	Nude colored leotard with support if necessary, but NO PADDING. Dancers should have clean shoes and tights at performance time.	Dancers should have clean tights at performance time. Black dance shorts are recommended.

	Black dance shorts for use under costumes (recommended).	
<b>Special topics</b>	Special topics will occasionally include studio work (improvisation & other dance techniques) at which time dancers may wear any solid color leotard or tank top, tights or fitted dance shorts, jazz/yoga pants, and a solid color long sleeve shirt.	

#### **Work Expectations:**

- Ms. Little expects all work to be your own. 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.
- A printer that is out of ink is not an excuse for not having your work. In the event that this happens, you must email the document to someone who has a printer and have that person print it for you or visit our school computer lab, school library, or public library. Do not email your paper to Ms. Little to print unless instructed to do so.

#### **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 school days of returning to school.
- Students must ask for make-up work once they return to school. Ms. Little is not responsible for keeping track of assignments/participation points/etc you missed!
- 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 minutes to dress out at the beginning and ending 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.
- 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 tardies and the case will move to administration after four tardies. It is expected that students will be on time to class and ready to work.
  - For the fourth 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).

#### **Late Work Policy:**

- Planned assignments that are turned in 1 day late will be an automatic 15% off the final assessed assignment. After three school days pass, the grade will not change.
- If you are absent on a due date, the assignment is due on the day you return, the second day is 15% off, and after the third day, the grade is a 0.
- If you are absent when an activity is assigned, you have how many days you were absent, plus two days to make up that work. This is the Guilford County Schools policy.
- If you are on a field trip, the assignment is due the day you return. On the second day, the automatic 15% is taken off; after the third day, it is a 0.
- You should communicate with your teacher regarding any planned absence from class regarding assignments or due dates.
- The majority of this class's work comes from being present in class! However, each student will be given one life pass (with the opportunity for three) throughout the semester. This pass can be used on ONE out-of-class assignment and will grant the student ONE EXTRA DAY to turn the assignment in. Passes cannot be used as extra credit. Use it wisely.

#### **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 school days to make up work for each absence. PLEASE COME TO MS. LITTLE ABOUT YOUR ABSENCES AS YOUR WORK IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

#### **Extra Help:**

- Ms. Little is happy to provide extra help for students who need make-up sessions due to absences or for those who desire additional assistance.
- Ms. Little will be available by appointment only; let her know at least 48 hours in advance.
- Students may use Ms. Little's email account, but only for school related work. Do not send forwards or other miscellaneous items. This email is [littleb2@gcsnc.com](mailto:littleb2@gcsnc.com). Emailed questions must be sent by 5pm each night or students will not receive a response until the following morning.

### **Physical touch:**

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

### **Grading Scale:**

A: 100—90  
B: 89—80  
C: 79—70  
D: 69—60  
F: 59 and below

### **Grade Calculations:**

50% Participation  
25% Major Assessments: Projects, tests, papers, major choreography assignments  
15% Minor Assessments: Quizzes, classwork, homework, minor choreography assignments  
10% Dance Journals: Pits and Peaks

Students & parents will be able to find updated grades through *Home Base (Powerschool)*. Weekly participation grades will be updated every Monday.

### **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 eight 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 to move in the first five minutes after the tardy bell with phone in the shoe rack
  - Required dress code on and hair pulled back appropriately
  - No chewing gum or eating unless asked
  - No talking while instruction is being given, clarifications being given, questions being answered, classmates are dancing, etc.
  - Dancing fully throughout the entire class (warm-up, technical training, across the floor combinations, center combinations, and performances)
  - Being a respectful audience member during performance and observation in class
  - Focused in class and on 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 as participation points will be deducted for reentering the dressing room space
- You have three (3) school days to make up participation points! After that, your grade will stand. When you make up an absence for participation, ask Ms. Little prior to your make-up time what you missed.

### **Concert Attendance:**

- Attendance at ALL scheduled dance concerts is MANDATORY.
- If there is a concert you are not performing in, 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.

### **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. 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.

**One life pass is allotted each semester, with the opportunity for three**, to be used for one observation day if the student would like to have a work day for themselves. School work still needs to be done! This will not act as a free day to take a nap.

### **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. 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 periodically check the dressing room to ensure it is neat and tidy. There is a trashcan 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 as a participation point will be lost. The main dressing room door should remain open while students are occupying the space. The interior ladies’ dressing room door and the interior men’s dressing room door should remain CLOSED AT ALL TIMES.

### **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 the permission of Ms. Little
- Students’ personal iPods, iPads, laptops, MP3 players, etc. will be allowed only during work time with permission.
- Cell phones are NOT permitted during class for any reason. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be kept in the SILENT/OFF position in the shoe rack otherwise a participation point will be lost.
- Ms. Little will follow the Weaver Academy Electronic Device Policy consequences if a student is found to be using his/her 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 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**

<b>Expectation</b>	<b>What does this look like in OUR studio?</b>
<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 everyday 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 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>Create Works of Art</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 from 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. Ms. Little has 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, as well as at the beginning of each subsequent semester. Performance dates are also posted on the calendar on Weaver's website. Performance is a large part of your final exam grade. All dancers are expected to be at the studio or on stage at call time. Call time for all concerts is 5:30pm.
2. **All rehearsals are mandatory.** Rehearsals are during the school day and, on particular occasions, after school. Tech week rehearsals are the week of the performance, every day 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 studio 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, all dance department costumes must be returned and signed in.
10. Dancers must understand their bodies are the instruments of dance and 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 (as it gets cold backstage and you should always have cover ups over costumes when not in the dressing room or backstage)
  - THE black class leotard; nude colored non padded leotard with support if necessary
  - Clean shoes, tights, and/or socks
  - Extra items specific to your costume
  - Water bottle and snacks (do NOT drink water or eat snacks when in costume!!)
  - Costumes and other items brought from home (ALL costumes should be in provided baskets and your area should be nice and tidy the ENTIRE week)
  - Hair supplies : brush/comb, hair ties, bobby pins, hairspray/gel (ALL hair needs to be pulled back unless otherwise noted)
  - Makeup: foundation, eye shadow, mascara, eyeliner, blush, lipstick
- \*\*Do NOT share makeup with others. Everyone should have their own hair supplies as well.\*\**

#### Dressing Room (during performances):

We will use the entire dance room as our dressing room. Dancers can change costumes in the studio dressing room as they do for regular class. Please keep the studio dressing room and dance room clean and neat. Remove all personal belongings following the last performance.

#### Costumes:

All costumes should stay in your named basket throughout the entire week. Use your basket to help keep your things contained and organized. Dance department costumes should be put in a pile to be checked in by Ms. Little and washed by the Dance Boosters following the last performance.

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

- As discussed in class. 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.
- Please exercise the utmost caution to not get makeup on your costumes!
- NO nail polish on fingers or toes.
- NO body glitter.
- NO jewelry, such as earrings, body piercings, rings, bracelets, anklets, and/or necklaces, are to be worn.
- NO tattoos are to be shown. If a costume does not cover a tattoo, it will need to be completely covered with makeup.

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

1<sup>st</sup> offense: In-class Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Student/Teacher Conference, with additional parent contact if needed

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Parent Conference

4<sup>th</sup> offense: Office Referral

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<p><b>Assignment Summary</b></p> <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.</p> <p>A.CP.2.1: 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>Semester Goals and Signed Syllabus:</b> Students will outline their specific goals for technique and performances this semester. They will also sign and submit the slip from the back of this syllabus indicating they and a parent/guardian have read and understand all class expectations.</p> <p>P.CP.2.3: Monitor teacher, peer, and self-assessments to refine personal performance in dance.</p> <p>I can set goals for myself to refine personal performance in dance.</p> <p><b>Due Tuesday 9/10 &amp; Friday, 9/13</b></p>
<p><b>Outside Dance Critique:</b> Attend a live dance performance. Turn in a critique within one week of the performance date. Your critique must meet the criteria set forth on the critique rubric. Do not simply summarize the performance. Choose the performance you plan to attend NOW.</p> <p><b>Due on or before Monday 12/10</b></p>
<p><b>Midterm Assessment:</b> Students will complete a technique assessment. They will also complete a self-evaluation of their progress through mid-semester. Students' self-evaluation should be structured around the descriptors on the technique evaluation.</p> <p>P.CP.2.3: Monitor teacher, peer, and self-assessments to refine personal performance in dance.</p> <p>I can assess my progress towards the dance goals I set for myself.</p> <p>I can apply teacher feedback to refine my performance in dance.</p> <p><b>Assessment week of 11/7 (tentatively)</b></p> <p><b>Reflection due Friday 11/8</b></p>
<p><b>Technique Book Review:</b> Find and annotate an autobiography/biography dance book, approved by Ms. Little, by Friday, Sept 26th. Biweekly annotation checks will occur throughout the semester. You will be presenting your findings on either Tuesday, Dec 9th or Wednesday, Dec 10th. Annotations include: asking questions, making connections, and simple statements of what you read. At least one to two annotations per page. <b>Due Monday 1/13</b></p>
<p><b>Fall Dance &amp; Choreography/Senior Concert (Self Reflection and Performance Evaluation):</b> Students will reflect on their concert performance. See rubric on Canvas for more information.</p> <p><b>Tech rehearsals Monday 11/18 through Wednesday 11/20 at 4:30—6:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Fall Concert is Thursday 11/21 and Friday 11/22, call time 5:30pm, show at 7:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Self Reflection/Performance Evaluation due Tuesday 11/26</b></p>
<p><b>Outside Dance Critique:</b> Attend a live dance performance. Turn in a critique within one week of the performance date in hard copy form. Your critique must meet the criteria set forth on the critique rubric. Do not simply summarize the performance. Choose the performance you plan to attend NOW. See rubric on Canvas for more information.</p> <p><b>Due on or before Wednesday 12/10</b></p>
<p><b>Portfolio:</b> Students will create a running Portfolio for themselves online. See rubric on Canvas for more info.</p> <p><b>Due Friday 12/12 (tentatively)</b></p>
<p>Additional Assignment Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Rubrics for assignments will be provided in a timely manner and will be available on the Weaver Website/Canvas.</li> <li>* Ms. Little reserves the right to change, modify, add, or delete assignments at any time.</li> <li>* All written work must be typed. Proper English is expected.</li> <li>* Hard copies of written work are due at the beginning of class (unless otherwise specified) on their due dates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Late assignments will be recorded as a zero. Students have up to three school days after the due date to receive a late grade (15% off) before it stands as a zero.</b></p>

**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. The first aid kit is under 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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***Please sign and return the bottom portion of the last page by Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> after reading through.***

**Honors Advanced Dance 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 plan to 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 \_\_\_\_\_



