Bryn Mawr College Dance Program

Course:	**Fall 2026: Dance Ensemble: Ballet (ARTD B346 & PEDANCE B146)**
Location:	Pem Studio
Days/Times:	Tuesday, 6:30-8:50pm
	September 1-December 8, 2026
Instructor:	Keelan Whitmore (he/him)
E-Mail:	kwhitmore@brynmawr.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment, Zoom or in-person.

Course Description:

This course is a choreographic exploration of curiosity and joy. Through movement, collaboration, and creative discovery, students will explore curiosity as part of the learning process and joy as a pathway to self-realization and awareness. We will consider the strength of the individual within a collective, moving between the micro and macro experiences of our lives, society, and nature.

Students will develop movement ideas, experiment with choreography, and collaborate in a welcoming and supportive environment. The course is taught by award winning choreographer and BalletX Rehearsal Director and Community Liaison Keelan Whitmore, who will share his experience as a dancer, choreographer, educator, and collaborator.

Dance ensembles are designed to offer students significant opportunities to develop dance technique and performance skills. Students audition for entrance into individual ensembles. Original works choreographed by faculty or guest choreographers are rehearsed and performed in concert. Students are evaluated on their participation in rehearsals, demonstration of commitment and openness to the choreographic process, and achievement in performance. Preparation: This course is suitable for intermediate and advanced level dancers. Concurrent attendance in at least one technique class per week is recommended. Students must commit to the full semester and be available for rehearsal week and performances in the Spring Dance Concert.

Important Dates:
Sat 10/24 make-up Rehearsal 10:30-1:00pm
Tues 11/3 no class
Sat 12/5 make-up Rehearsal 10:30-1:00pm
Tues 12/8 no class
Technical Rehearsal week (Sunday, April 18-Thurs, April 22)
Performances: Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25, 7:30pm (call time 5:30pm)

Dance Approved Events Offered on Campus this Semester include:

Performing Arts Series, October 2027
Stephanie Batton Bland
Master Classes and Performances
Dates TBA

Assessment:
This course is designed to deepen students' practice of contemporary ballet movement forms and concepts. Emphasis is placed on the dedication of one's approach, investment in the investigation of movement principles, and the evidence of progress. Details below:

Growth- (25%) student's ability to synthesize ideas into embodiment and realize their physical practice over the course of the session
Participation- (30%) the degree of effort and presence put forth to learning as an on-going practice, and student's willingness to volunteer thoughts and reflections about their embodied experience during class time. This course requires the physical, emotional, psychological presence of the participant. Participation is the degree of one's attention and availability to content in the course.
Performance –(20%) the degree to which the student meets the expectations of pre-professional performance practices for the Spring Dance Concert, including timely attendance, focus and presence, collaboration, and commitment to the physical and energetic elements of performance.
Community- (10%) the degree to which the student contributes to the cultivation of a supportive and positive learning community
Assignments (5%)- students may be asked to share goals for the semester in the form of a written or recorded assignment, complete a survey regarding the class experience, attend mid-semester, or check-in meetings

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Attendance Philosophy:

SEE STUDENT COURSE GUIDE FOR DANCE PROGRAM ATTENDENCE POLICIES (which apply to ALL students in the course)

By attending this class, participants agree to cultivate a supportive class community by consistently showing up and contributing an energy into the room that is supportive and conducive to everyone's learning and the growth. Sitting out excessively, for example, will not only impact your attendance grade but impacts the conditions of the learning space for all. Excessive absences also significantly impact your grade, but most of all profoundly impact the energy of our community.

Communication is key regarding absences. This means: student should email instructor *prior* to an anticipated absence, as well as email correspondence between instructor and student about subsequent or excessive absences. It is not the instructor's responsibility to track you down about your absences.

Illness: If you feel very ill, do not come to class and be in communication with instructor. Consider symptoms such as fever or vomiting instances in which you should not attend class. However, a stuffy nose is not an instance in which you need to miss class. Mask wearing is up to student discretion. Sometimes we work closely with one another so please use your best judgement. I generally do not encourage class observation for illness.

Injury and Class Observation Policy:
If injury prevents full participation, **student attends class** by mindfully modifying movement. Injured students must be in the studio and fully engaged throughout the class, unless otherwise discussed. Schedule time to speak with instructor prior to class for ways to modify class material.

Late Policies
Life happens, but let's start on time. If student arrives on or after fifteen minutes late to class, student may be asked to observe and this may impact attendance. If instructor is running behind, check email for communication and begin warming up on your own.

Attire for Studio Work:

Please where what you are comfortable moving in. There is no dress code for this course, but clothes that are moderately fitted is recommended. Come prepared with warm clothing to layer for colder days. You can wear socks for barre, but ballet shoes are recommended for center work.