DANC200
Introduction to Dance
TuTh 12:30-1:45pm
Susquehanna 1101

Instructor: Erin Crawley-Woods
Office: CSPAC 1937
Office Hours: by appointment
Contact: ecwoods@umd.edu

Course Description
This course introduces students to dance by engaging with the multiple purposes of the art form through hands-on experiences, by exploring the history and current state of dance as a form of creative expression and social, religious, and cultural practice, and by investigating dance as it relates to other artistic disciplines.

During the session we will explore elements of a wide variety of dance styles and practices through movement explorations, dance-making, readings, discussions, videos, written responses, collaborative projects, and attendance at live dance events. By examining dance in both global and local contexts we will move towards a fuller appreciation and understanding of the influence of dance in our everyday lives as well as an embodied reflection and expression of the world in which we live.

This course will be split into three distinct units. The first will explore how dance is relevant to your life. You will be asked to participate in and reflect upon a movement class of your choosing and to complete a project that draws from your own personal dance heritage. We will also begin to build a movement vocabulary within the class that we will draw on later in the semester. The second unit will focus on refining your skills of observation and description when viewing dance and making and revising an original piece of dance through collaboration. We will discuss elements of theatrical production and site-specific choreography as well as how to write an articulate dance analyses paper. The third unit will culminate in a final collaborative project that incorporates knowledge and new understanding gained over the semester.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Participate in movement and other live dance events to gain a greater appreciation for and understanding of the physical, creative and performative processes involved in the art form.
- Describe the functions of dance and the relationship between dance and the greater artistic, social, cultural and political landscape in which it was created and currently exists.
- Articulate a definition of dance and the role, form, intention, and interpretation plays in delineating dance movement from non-dance movement.
- Analyze live and recorded dance performances through clear and articulate written and oral responses that describe the work and personal reflections to it.
- Work collaboratively with other students to research, integrate and present material in a creative and effective manner.
- Give and receive feedback in order to revise a piece of original choreography.
- Consider the potential of dance as empowering educational tool and vehicle for personal and communal development.
- Seek and form connections between concepts covered in this class and other fields of study and interest.
Course Syllabus

School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, UMD

Spring 2013

Course Syllabus

Course Materials

- All readings will be posted on ELMS (Canvas); please consider the cost of attending live dance events in the community and on campus as your textbook expense for this class, which will vary depending on your own choices.
- All videos will be viewed in class, online through youtube or through ELMS online streaming, or at Hornbake Nonprint Library.
- Please bring note-taking materials (notebooks, computers, etc.) to each class.*

*Technology Policy – Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight for the duration of the class. Laptops may be used only at designated times and for the specific purposes outlined in class. Please show respect for the instructor and your fellow classmates by using computer only for note taking and in-class research, and not for social sites, email, non-class related tasks…etc. Students who spend time on non-class related tasks during the class experience will forfeit participation points for the day, and can be asked to leave the classroom.

Course Requirements and Assessment

- On-time attendance at all class meetings.
- Cell phones turned off and out of sight and appropriate use of laptops as stated above.
- On-time completion of all assignments: reading, video screenings, written and creative responses
- Verbal and non-verbal participation in all aspects of class: discussions, video screenings, movement explorations, group work
- Active participation in and written response to a participatory dance event
- Attendance and written review of an approved live dance event
- Collaboration in two group projects
- Final take-home Exam

Attendance and Participation

25% of final grade

Class participation will be evaluated daily, with up to 2 points granted per class session.

Active participation in this class is defined as:

- Being prompt and prepared (assigned readings comprehended and assignments completed thoughtfully)
- Adherence to technology policy
- Contributing to small group and full-class discussions and debates
- Moving/participating in demonstrations and in-class explorations
- Listening to and engaging with (taking notes, asking questions) material being presented
- Viewing and responding to in-class film showings,
- Exhibiting overall willingness to explore, create, discuss, move, question, challenge assumptions and try new things

Participation Rubric:

- Insufficient Participation= 0 points
- Attendance with tardiness (more than 10 minutes for a regular class meeting, more than 5 minutes late for a major graded event) and/or minimal participation in class discussion and activities and/or unauthorized use of phone/computer= 1 point
- Attendance with satisfactory participation in class discussion and activities = 2 points.
Make-up Policy:
Make-up showings of material unavailable in Hornbake Library will be arranged only for students with written, excused absences. In addition, students may request a make-up assignment to regain participation points for up to three excused absences. These could include attendance at special events and written reflection on them, additional research and reflection, or video viewing and analysis. All make-up assignments are due one week after the student returns to class after the excused absence.

In the event of extended, continuous absences due to significant injury, illness or other situation beyond the student's control, outside written documentation must be provided. The instructor and student will meet to determine if the amount of material and in-class experiences missed can be made up, or if other arrangements, such as a medical withdrawal, must be made.

Assignments
25% of final grade

Six homework assignments pertaining to material we are covering in class will be assigned throughout the semester. Guidelines will be discussed in class and posted on ELMS.

Papers
25% of Final Grade

Participatory Paper 40pts
Students are to attend a live dance participatory event in the community. The key word is participatory – you should be up and moving! Please be sure to do your research and find the best opportunity for you. Refer to list of examples and helpful website links posted in the guidelines.
Students are to write a 2-3 page reaction paper to their dance experience, based on the guidelines posted on ELMS. The paper is due Tuesday, February 14.

Performance Paper 60pts
Students are to attend one live dance performance chosen from the list posted on ELMS and write a 3-4 page analyses (guidelines also posted on ELMS). The paper is due within two weeks of your attendance of the performance.

Projects
25% of final grade

Group Project #1 50pts
Topics and details to be discussed in class and posted on ELMS
Project work day: March 28
Project showings: April 2 & 4

Group Project #2 50pts
Topics and details to be discussed in class and posted on ELMS
Project work day: May 2
Project showings: May 7 & 9
Grading

Participation – 25%
Assignments – 25%
Papers -25%
Projects – 25%

A+ 97-100, A 93-96, A- 90-92
B+87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82
C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72
D+67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62
F 0-59

A+, A, A- students will exhibit an eagerness to dialogue and experiment, including sensitive and articulate expressions of opinions and original synthesis of materials presented in their writing and discussion. Students arrive for class punctually, participate enthusiastically, listen to classmates respectfully, turn in course work promptly, read assigned selections, and come to class prepared with media and ideas for discussion, and research projects thoroughly. Presentations and papers will be clearly structured and include new knowledge meaningful to our class community.

B+, B, B- students will exhibit willingness to dialogue and experiment, including thoughtful expressions of opinions and original synthesis of materials presented in their writing and discussion. Students will participate in class fully, listen to classmates respectfully, turn in course work promptly, read assigned selections, and come to class prepared with media for discussion, and research projects thoroughly. Presentations and papers will be well thought out and include new knowledge meaningful to the individual.

C+, C, C- students will dialogue and experiment, including some originality of ideas in their writing and discussion. Students will participate in class exercises, read assigned selections and come prepared with media response, listen to discussion respectfully, turn in all course work, and research projects thoroughly. Presentations and papers will be accurate and interesting.

D+, D, D- students will sometimes dialogue and experiment, occasionally including original ideas and opinions. Students will routinely abstain from class exercises, readings and discussions. Students will irregularly bring in media responses and turn in course work. Presentations and papers will be accurate and easy to understand.

F students will not dialogue or experiment in class, attending class late or infrequently. Students will be unreceptive to others’ opinions and ideas. Assignments will be consistently late or incomplete. Presentations and papers will be inaccurate or inscrutable.

A note about Academic Integrity: The University has a Code of Academic Integrity, available on the web at www.inform.umd.edu/Campus Into/Departments/jpo/code_acinteg.html. We assume that students are familiar with the principles of the Code, which prohibits cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. Students who have questions or concerns about these issues should contact the instructors or view the website for additional information.
University Policies

PLUS MINUS GRADES: The implementation of plus minus grade factoring will begin in fall 2012. Under the new policy, quality points for each letter grade from a through d will reflect plus and minus components of the grade, as shown below. The plus/minus system will apply to both undergraduate and graduate courses. A+ = 4.0, a = 4.0, a- = 3.7, b+ = 3.3, b = 3.0, b- = 2.7, c+ = 2.3, c = 2.0, c- = 1.7, d+ = 1.3, d = 1.0, d- = 0.7, f = 0. The university’s present marking system defining the standards for letter grades is retained under the new plus/minus policy. The present marking system is as follows:

- A+, a, a- denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship
- B+, b, b- denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship
- C+, c, c- denotes acceptable mastery of the subject
- D+, d, d- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and unsatisfactory progress toward a degree
- 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)

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](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-
ATTENDANCE POLICY OF THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES:

Regular attendance and in-class participation are integral components of all dance and theatre classes and seminars. Although instructors are responsible for informing each class of the nature of in-class participation and the effect of absences on the evaluation of a student’s work, the school’s general attendance policy on excused absences is consistent with the university’s policy, which allows students to be excused for the following causes:

1. Illness of the student* or illness of a dependent as defined by the board of regents policy on family medical leave
2. Religious observance
3. Participation in university activities at the request of university authorities
4. Compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control

*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 rescheduling is not always possible.