DANC 209/0101 Fall 2013
Choreography /3 credits
MWF 12:30 – 1:50 pm
Instructor: Alvin Mayes
Studio 2
Office 1931
Phone: 301-405-3194
email: amayes@umd.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10:00 – 10:45 or by appointment

REQUIREMENT
DANC207 or DANC208 or permission of department

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Basis principles of dance composition

OBJECTIVES:
Development of principles of dance composition: form, space, time, dynamics and movement manipulation.
Development of critical awareness and effective communication.

COURSE CONTENT:
Daily exercises in dance-making, exploring dance forms and the craft of choreography.
Choreographic problems will be explored in and out of class. Students will develop assignments outside of class and present them to the class with group discussion and analysis. There will be at least ONE assignment presented and analyzed each week.
Check the list of daily choreographic assignments.

OBJECTIVES:
To explore dance making processes
To learn how to rehearse your dances
To make knowledgeable choreographers
To construct dances in which composition theory is applied and embodied
To increase the understanding and development of movement for intent, content or expressivity.
To observe, write and speak clearly about dance composition: process and product.
To gain experience with interdisciplinary connections between dance and other art forms such as theatre, visual arts, music, and literature

REQUIREMENTS:
Students should complete all assignments in a timely fashion
Students should attend the first Friday presentations
Students must attend three dance concerts taken from the attached list
Write a two page paper analyzing one dance from each concert you attend, using criteria from composition and performance. Papers are due no later than two class periods after the concert. Submit papers as an attachment via email.
Readings will be assigned as appropriate during the semester.
Express your observations in writing

ATTENDANCE:
Absences are discouraged from both class and rehearsals. You are responsible for all studio work, which includes discussion, new material and exams. Tardiness is also discouraged.
Two Absences allowed before the grade is affected.
Please do not call the Business Office to report absences or late arrivals to class.

GRADING:
A grade of B will indicate that the requirements of the course were fully met; a grade of A will indicate superior motivation and accomplishment were fully demonstrated by the student; a grade of C or lower will indicate that the requirements of the course were not fully met.
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING DANCES

Please consider the following when evaluating dances or studies during discussions or in written assignments for this course:

Did the dance meet the requirements of the specific assignment?
Was the use of the choreographic elements of time, space and dynamics clear?
Interesting? Interesting? Appropriate to the perceived context?
Is the formal design clear? Do sections emerge in the best order of could they be reordered for more clarity? Did the structure contribute to holding your interest?
Was the movement theme clear? How have the motifs been used and varied? Was there sufficient use of contrast to avoid monotony? Was there sufficient infusion of the motifs to provide a unified and integrated whole?
Was the movement vocabulary inventive? Was there anything unique about the dance? Were there any "flowers" for you?
Did the dance have clarity? To what extent were the choreography and/or performance responsible for the clarity or lack of it?
Did the production elements (sound, costume, set, props, lighting as appropriate) enhance or inhibit the choreographer's ability to make a statement?
Did the dance touch you, awaken you, startle you, or anger you? Do you think the choreographer intended this response? Would you want to see this dance performed again?
What would you change and why?
Was the dance the right length to accomplish the choreographer's intent? Was there anything extraneous? Was something missing?
Does this dance study show growth on the part of the choreographer/performer?

STUDIO ETIQUETTE

Turn off your cell phone before entering the space.
No food or drink is allowed in the studio (water bottles are okay).
Remove your shoes before entering the studio. Put them back on outside the studio.
Take every correction as though it were your own.
Stay focused and involved during the entire class.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Form ABA</td>
<td>Form ABA</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Phrase manipulations: Other side, Reverse, Retrograde</td>
<td>Phrase manipulations: Time, space, level, facings,</td>
<td>Phrase manipulations: dynamics, transference</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Rondo Form Subject, Episode</td>
<td>Rondo Form Subject, Episode</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sonata Allegro Form: Exposition Development Recapitulation</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Lied Solo with accompaniment</td>
<td>Dance with text</td>
<td>Dance with text</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Dance with text</td>
<td>Accompaniment for your dance</td>
<td>Accompaniment for your dance</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Partnering class</td>
<td>elements in Duet Unison, canon, phrase manipulation with two people, weight sharing</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Duets</td>
<td>Duets with music accompaniment</td>
<td>Duets with music accompaniment</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Collaborative duet</td>
<td>Collaborative duet</td>
<td>Collaborative duet</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Same duet – different music</td>
<td>Same duet – different music</td>
<td>Same duet – different music</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Site specific work more than one person</td>
<td>Site specific work more than one person</td>
<td>Site specific work more than one person</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Dance with prop or set</td>
<td>Dance with prop or set</td>
<td>Dance with prop or set</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>Group work</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>Group work</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>The unexpected</td>
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<td>Finals week</td>
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UNIVERSITY POLICY

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 reschedule 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.

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

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

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/
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

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 (301-405-2839), or the Legal Office (301-405-4945). To read the entire Policy see Appendix B in the Undergraduate Catalog. http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html and http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/52/s/943.

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