The Fall 2013 project-based learning course will focus on a cross-disciplinary look at form and expression. Throughout the semester we will explore ways in which concepts, formulas, and ideas from a range of disciplines can find visual and kinetic form through dance. Particular attention will be given to the structure and progression of an idea -- its spatial, temporal, and dynamic life. What does the concept look like? feel like? How does it move? What is the human experience of the idea/concept/principle?

Students in the course will partner with students from other majors, one from ARHU and one from outside of the College, to better understand a significant idea or theory in each discipline. Each partnership will generate the content for a choreographic study based on the structure of an idea in the other discipline and the process of translation from one form to another. A paper will be required for each of the completed studies describing the structure of the idea and the process of translation. There will be open showings of the studies and open conversations about the process.

The course will also explore, through readings, viewings, and movement, the expressive power of form in selected works of modern/contemporary dance artists. These investigations will be shared in in-class presentations.

Outcomes:

--develop an eye for form and an ability to sense the shape of an idea
--gain additional insight into the elements of a movement language
--develop skill in defining, refining, forming
--gain a clearer understanding and appreciation of other disciplines and the ways in which ideas find form
--develop the ability to perceive relationships across the disciplines and to better understand the ways in which all fields of study speak to the human experience.
--gain additional insight into the expressive power of form

This course is open to junior and senior Dance majors who have completed their first and second year benchmark courses. Contact Anne Warren at awarren@umd.edu for additional information.