DANC 719: CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT (3 credits)
MW 3:30-4:50pm
CSPAC
Fall 2013
http://tdps.umd.edu/

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Prerequisite: Admission to MFA in Dance or permission of department.
Research-based choreographic projects in preparation for the choreographed thesis project.

COURSE OVERVIEW:
This course aims to provide you with tools and methodologies for identifying and accessing source materials for choreography, and turning those materials into choreographed works. Included in the course: Investigating, adapting, devising, and proposing choreographed works.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
To learn tools to enable successful creative research
To access source materials for choreography
To work from researched and source materials into choreographed projects
To adapt a variety of creative forms
To devise clear and specific dance works
To develop a sound proposal for a significant dance event

REQUIRED:
A Choreographic Mind: Autobodgraphical Writings by Susan Rethorst, Theatre Academy Helsinki, Department of Dance, Kinesis 2, 2012, order through Contact Quarterly, $39
-Notebook and pen/pencil for class notes
-May periodically be articles and/or other handouts for reading/discussion

COURSE EVALUATION:
Quality of daily class participation, reasonable proficiency in application of the skills and concepts presented will be expected, as well as evidence of concerted effort to improve, and thoughtful completion of assignments.

Class Participation 40%
Choreographic & Written Assignments 30%
Final Proposal 30%

ASSESSMENT:
Grading: Evaluating a creative practice class is, at best, subjective to some extent. What is important is your commitment to the process, personal improvement, willingness to go beyond personal boundaries, and thorough embodiment and progress.

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, one time per course per semester, 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 re-scheduling is not always possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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.
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.

STATEMENT ON CIVILITY
The College of Arts and Humanities is expected to be a diverse, open and tolerant arena within which all ideas, whether popular or not, may be freely discussed without rancor. Demeaning, intimidating or threatening behavior is unacceptable and contrary to our basic values. As citizens of the University, we should take the lead in producing, and take pride in sustaining, an environment that is characterized by tolerance, respect and civility. This should be the hallmark of a college that welcomes and values diverse perspectives, intellectual pluralism and the free and open exchange of ideas. Every member of this community–students, staff, faculty, leadership and supervisors within the college–is responsible for promoting such an environment and supporting these expectations.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website at umd.edu and snow phone line (301-405-SNOW), as well as on local radio and TV stations. If inclement weather conditions force a faculty member to cancel a class even though the University if open, check your email frequently for updated information.

UNIVERSITY GRADING DEFINITIONS
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 and usual achievement expected.
D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and does not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree.
F denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance.

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.

WRITING CENTER  See www.english.umd.edu/writingcenter for information and appointments.

COURSE EVALUATIONS
Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. Please go directly to the website: www.courseevalum.umd.edu to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations
each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

REFERENCES:


*Note: This syllabus may be subject to change. Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.*
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introductions

<MODULE I: INVESTIGATING>
Week 2: Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis, LMA as movement research

Week 3: Seeing/Perceiving & Movement Observation

Week 4: Oral History/Interview

<MODULE II: ADAPTING>
Week 5: Dramaturgy/Danceaturgy

Week 6: Dance Project Archiving: collecting, organizing, processing

Week 7: Mixed media as research tools: photography & videography

Week 8: Adapting as translation/re-imagining/morphing practice

<MODULE III: DEVISING>
Week 9: Develop short pieces via investigating & adapting sources

Week 10: Develop short pieces via investigating & adapting sources cont.

Week 11: Layering: movement, sound, media, site, images

Week 12: Revising: developing, reinventing, and reflecting

<MODULE IV: PROPOSING>
Week 13: Idea/theme, venue, design elements, budgeting

Week 14: Proposal development

Week 15: Proposal feedback, revision, presentation preparation