

Core Course Syllabus



Course	DANC 1310.0w1
Course Title	Understanding Dance
Professor	Cheryl Callon
Term	Spring 2025
Meetings	Online, asynchronous

Professor's Contact Information

Email Address	Cheryl.Callon@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	By appointment only via Microsoft Teams

Course Description: Understanding Dance offers the student an opportunity to develop an awareness and appreciation of dance in its cultural, social, and artistic contexts through explorations in dance aesthetics, history, and the creative process. Students will study dance through lecture, viewing and critiquing of live and video dance performances, readings, participatory study of selected dance genres, exposure to the art of theatrical production, and exploration of the creative process. This class will view dance, talk about dance and explore dance as a living embodiment of our culture and ourselves.

General Core Area 050 Creative Arts

Description: Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

Objectives **Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication (COM)—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

Teamwork (TW)—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Social Responsibility (SR)—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Visual and Performing Arts Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to describe and apply the basic methodologies and processes of the creative and performing arts.
2. Students will demonstrate effective critical and analytical skills through oral and/or written communication.
3. Students will learn and employ a broad knowledge of the principles and history of at least one major form of artistic expression.
4. Students will gain experience and competency in at least one area of the creative and performing arts.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Given text readings, video viewings, and class discussions, students will demonstrate recognition of significant historical dance figures and periods and selected world dance genres.
- Drawing from texts, viewing of live and video recorded dance, discussion and lecture, students will demonstrate an understanding of the creative process and of dance as an art form by completing and experiencing classroom assignments, movement workshops and activities, and presentations.
- Students will be able to analyze live performances by applying fundamental concepts of Space/Time/Energy as discussed in class and course texts.
- Students will be able to synthesize and present research on social dance forms and a prominent figure in dance.

Textbook

Ambrosio, N. *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. (8th or 9th edition)

The 8th edition text is offered in the campus bookstore. The 9th edition is what will be used for assignments. You may also purchase the eBook or print version online directly from [Kendall Hunt](#).

Course Modality and Expectations: The class will be 100% online, asynchronous. This class will use eLearning for distribution of course materials and turning in student work. Students are expected to have DAILY access to a computer that can support the Blackboard system and is equipped with word processing and slide creation software (such as Microsoft Office or Google applications). Students are expected to spend a minimum of 2-3 hours a week on this course. Groups may be created by the instructor for some assignments. Students will also upload videos to eLearning. One concert critique is assigned, which requires attending a live, in-person dance concert from an approved list.

Course Calendar

(subject to change at professor's discretion, check eLearning for updates)

Week	Topics	Assignments Due	Notes
1 (1/21-1/26)	Unit 1: Intro to Dance Why Do People Dance? Dances of Latin America	Discussion: Get to know your classmates Assignment: Reading Assignment #1	
2 (1/27-2/2)	Unit 1: Intro to Dance Looking at Dance Responding to Dance	Discussions (3): Defining Dance Personal Aesthetic Video Critique	
3 (2/3-2/9)	Unit 1: Intro to Dance Thinking About Dance Benefits of Dance	Celebration of Learning #1 Quiz & Essay	<i>Last day to drop without a "W" - 2/5</i>
4 (2/10-2/16)	Unit 2: Understanding Choreography	Discussion: Time, Space, Energy Assignment: Reading Assignment #2	
5 (2/17-2/23)	Unit 2: Understanding Choreography	Discussion: Laban Efforts Assignment: Pedestrian choreography	
6 (2/24-3/2)	Unit 3: Ballet/Modern Dance History	Discussion: Ballet Video Assignment: Reading Assignment #3	
7 (3/3-3/9)	Unit 3: Ballet/Modern Dance History	Discussion: Modern Dance Video Assignment: Reading Assignment #4	<i>Begin picking world dance research topics</i>

8 (3/10-3/16)	Unit 3: Ballet/Modern Dance History	Celebration of Learning #2 Quiz & Essay WORLD DANCE: Topics due	Spring Break March 17-21 <i>No assignments or material posted during this time.</i>
9 (3/24-3/30)	Unit 4: Dance Production & Presenting	Assignment: Dance Proposal WORLD DANCE: Bibliography & Summary due	
10 (3/31-4/6)	Unit 4: Dance Production & Presenting	Assignments (2): Reading Assignment #5 Publicity (Group)	<i>World dance project submission opens</i>
11 (4/7-4/13)	Unit 5: World Dance	WORLD DANCE: Research Essay Short Presentation Video	
12 (4/14-4/20)	Unit 5: World Dance	WORLD DANCE: Group Presentation Feedback	<i>Last day to withdraw with a 'W' - 4/9</i>
13 (4/21-4/27)	Unit 6: American Theatrical & Film Dance	Discussion: Lecture Response Assignment: Reading Assignment #6 PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS (4/27)	
14 (4/28-5/4)	Unit 6: American Theatrical & Film Dance	Discussion: Lecture Response Celebration of Learning #3 Essay	
15 (5/5-5/11)	Unit 6: American Theatrical & Film Dance	Celebration of Learning #3 Quiz	<i>Have a great summer!</i>

Grading Policy

30%	Celebrations of Learning (quizzes, essays)
25%	Assignments
20%	Research Project
15%	Discussion Posts
10%	Performance Analysis

Grading Scale (percentage)

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 59 and Below
A = 92-96	B = 82-86	C = 72-76	D = 62-66	
A- = 90-91	B- = 80-81	C- = 70-71	D- = 60-61	

Course Participation: Even though this is a fully online course, students are expected to regularly participate throughout the semester. This includes visiting eLearning weekly and submitting assignments on time. Students who fail to engage with the course are inviting scholastic difficulty. It is the student's responsibility to adequately plan for assignment completion and submission based on their current circumstances.

Students are encouraged to make positive choices to ensure successful participation, including but not limited to: getting adequate sleep, practicing wise and efficient time management, and utilizing community and university resources to maintain physical, mental, emotional, and social health.

Late Work & Make-up Policy - Some assignments may be submitted late, with penalty. Unless otherwise noted, assignments submitted late will automatically get a 50% deduction in points. Only two extra days are allowed to submit late work. For example, if a discussion board was due on September 8 at 11:59pm and the student submitted it on September 9 at 8:05am, the student receives half credit at a minimum, not counting any point deductions for the content itself. In this same scenario, a student who submits the assignment on September 11 at 2:56am would not receive any credit. Please check the late work policy for all assignments, to avoid any confusion. Any exceptions to this policy are at the professor's discretion and will likely require written documentation. It is the student's responsibility to stay in contact with the professor regarding circumstances that may affect course participation.

Course Work Policy - All course assignments and projects guidelines are available on eLearning. It is the student's responsibility to access course material in a timely manner. Inability to access course information is not an excuse for late or missed assignments, unless the error lies with the professor or a campus-wide technology problem. If you are having trouble with your login information, it is your responsibility to contact the Help Desk. If you have trouble accessing a document or submitting an assignment, please inform the professor as soon as possible.

***Be sure to save all work submitted throughout the semester. Previously submitted items may need to be accessed or revisited.

Students are expected to present their own original work for this class. This means that assignments previously or concurrently submitted for other classes are not acceptable for this course. Other forms of academic dishonesty include collusion, plagiarism, and cheating. Evidence of academic dishonesty results in grade penalties and/or disciplinary action.

The use of AI-generated content is strongly discouraged in this class, as it inhibits the student's critical thinking process and has the potential to contain inaccurate and/or biased language. Any use of generative language (such as that found in ChatGPT) is the equivalent of finding that same text in a book, magazine, website, or journal; it is words and ideas that someone (or in this case, "something") wrote. As such, if a student chooses to use AI-generated content in their paper, it must be cited as a source, or its use is considered plagiarism. Assignments with evidence of generative language without attribution will be reported to the Dean of Students. See eLearning for more information on AI use.

Utilizing outside research for essays and papers is not prohibited, but credit must always be given for words or ideas beyond the information given in class. In defining what types of information are considered plagiarism, it is understood that lecture material (via slides or given verbally) is free to use in written assignments, however the student sees fit. Any other written material is considered intellectual property of that particular author and must be cited or acknowledged. Exceptions to this rule will be posted in the assignment guidelines.

Unless explicitly stated, all assignments, exams, and papers for this class are to be completed by the individual student. Students may view films and live dance concerts together, but must provide their own original analysis. In order to limit suspicion in regards to collusion, I highly recommend students NOT to discuss content that will appear in an assignment with other students in the class until that assignment is turned in.

Comet Creed - *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Other policies and procedures may be found here: <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>. The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.