

Course Syllabus

Course Information

DANC 1310.01 Understanding Dance

Fall, 2016

A H 2 1.204, T/TH 10:00-11:15am

Professor Contact Information

Melissa Johnson

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Office phone: none, please use email

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Office hours: By arrangement

Course Description

Lectures, discussions, video and live performance viewings designed to explore artistic, philosophical, and historical dimensions of the theatrical dance experience. Areas of emphases may include differing dance traditions, the nature of dance compared to other performing arts, and relations between social and theatrical dance.

General Education Core Objectives: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objective:

- Critical thinking skills – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions
- Communication skills – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication
- Teamwork – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view
- Social responsibility – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Critical thinking skills; Students will be able to analyze live performances by applying fundamental concepts of Space/Time/Energy as discussed in class and course texts (assessed via the dance analyses, live performance analyses, midterm exam, and final exam)
 - Communication skills; students will be able to synthesize course material and present research on a dance-related topic (assessed via reflection papers and presentation report)
 - Teamwork; students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the creative process of dance as an art form by creating a group presentation about a world dance form (assessed via the group presentation and presentation report)
 - Social responsibility; Students will be able to demonstrate recognition of significant historical dance figures and periods and selected world dance genres (assessed via the midterm and final exam)
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Required Textbooks and Materials

Textbook: Ambrosio, N. (2006). *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment*.

Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. (7 th ed.)

**The text is offered in the campus bookstore

**You may also purchase online directly from Kendall Hunt, below is link where the eBook or print version may be purchased along with the ISBN. Follow the link and add either the eBook or print version to the cart. The website will direct you to create an account before check out, in order for their item to be sent. <http://www.kendallhunt.com/ambrosio/>

ISBN:

Print- 978-0-7575-7709-3

eBook- 978-1-4652-0441

Additional handouts will be distributed during the course of the semester. It is suggested that the student acquire a small notebook or folder to accommodate these handouts.

Attire: On specified days (see course schedule for 'movement practicum'), students will be required to dress for movement class. Wear stretchy, reasonably form-fitting pants and tops, long hair must be tied back from your face, no dangling jewelry, chewing gum, or hats. Feet will be bare (unless otherwise noted). Water bottles are recommended.

Additional Course requirements

Students will be required to view and critique two live dance concerts. You will be provided with a list of approved dance concert performances from which to choose a concert to attend. Some performances have an admission fee. Choose the dates, ticket prices and locations that are appropriate for you and attend accordingly. Students are responsible for their own transportation to these events. In addition to the required analysis a program from the concert attended must be submitted. Analysis and program must be submitted on eLearning. Scan and submit on eLearning the cover of the program and the page or pages giving information of dances performed, choreographer, composer or musical artist, any program notes about the dance, and dancers.

****See the instructor if you have questions about attending an event not listed as approved**

Assignments & Academic Calendar

WEEK 1: 8/23 Course Intro/Syllabus

8/25 What is Dance?

HW: Read Ch.1, Schrader

WEEK 2: 8/30 Aesthetic Experience, Time Periods

HW: Read Ch. 2

9/1 The Choreographer, Dancer, Audience

HW: Read Ch. 3, 4

WEEK 3: 9/6 **Quiz #1 (ch. 1-4)**

Ballet: Class discussion, View video clips

HW: Read Ch. 5

9/8 Contemporary Ballet: Class discussion, video clips

HW: Ballet Reflection Due

WEEK 4: 9/13 **Quiz #2 (ch. 5)**

Modern: Class discussion, View video clips

HW: Read Ch. 6

9/15 Post-Modern

HW: Read Ch. 7

WEEK 5: 9/20 **Quiz #3 (ch. 6-7)**

Post-Modern Activity, Improvisation

HW: Modern Reflection Due

9/22 In Class Video Analysis: Criteria, format, practice

WEEK 6: 9/27 Dance practicum; Meet in University Theater

9/29 Theater Orientation; meet in University Theater

HW: Read Ch. 11

WEEK 7: 10/4 Review for Midterm

HW: Study for Midterm

10/6 Midterm

WEEK 8: 10/11 Dance practicum; Meet in University Theater
10/13 Dance practicum; Meet in University Theater

WEEK 9: 10/18 Jazz, Tap, Vaudeville, Minstrel, Musical Theater
HW: Ch. 9, 10
10/20 **Quiz # 4 (ch. 9 & 10)**
Social Dance – Begin working on social dance presentations
HW: Social Dance project

WEEK 10: 10/25 Social Dance Presentations
10/27 Social Dance Presentations
10/28 **1st Dance Analysis Due @ midnight through eLearning**

WEEK 12: 11/1 View video: *Dancing in One World*, World Dance
HW: Read Ch. 8
11/3 World Dance; working on World dance group project
HW: World dance group project

WEEK 13: 11/8 World Dance Project and discussion
11/10 **Quiz #5 (ch. 8)**
Current Events in Dance/Dance in Politics

WEEK 14: 11/15 Final Presentation prep, topic selection
11/17 Final Presentations Begin

WEEK 15: 11/22 Fall Break
11/24 Thanksgiving Break

Week 16: 11/29 Final Presentations
12/1 Final Presentations,
12/2 2nd Dance Analysis Due @ midnight through eLearning

WEEK 17: 12/6 Final Presentations
12/8 No Class

Final Exam TBA

*** *Calendar is subject to change***

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE:

**** UTD Dance Ensemble will present “Crossing Borders II” on October 13-15 at 7:30pm. This performance will be the subject of one of the two required live dance analyses. Attendance is required at this event.**

Grading Policy

Course evaluation:

Attendance/Participation/Discussion/Class Work	20%
Written Assignments	15%
Dance Concert Critique	15%
Project/Presentation	20%
Quizzes	10%
Exams	20%

Grading Scale:	98 – 100 = A+	78 – 79 = C+
	93 – 97 = A	73 – 77 = C
	90 – 92 = A-	70 – 72 = C-
	88 – 89 = B+	68 – 69 = D+
	83 – 87 = B	63 – 67 = D
	80 – 82 = B-	60 – 62 = D-
	59 and below = F	

Course & Instructor Policies

Please note that this is an introductory class. Although students in the class will have a wide range of dance experience, class participation grades are not based on technical mastery, previous knowledge, or on comparison with other class members. Participation grades are based on positive and active contribution; engaging fully in class discussion and activities with a positive and supportive attitude toward the material and your classmates.

Attendance: *Attendance is critical to your success in this class!* Please see the instructor in advance if you know that you must miss a class. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** Absence from class is not an excuse for late work or failure to be prepared for the next lesson. Exchanging email addresses with a classmate is suggested as a way to keep informed in case of unforeseen circumstances. You may also email the instructor with questions regarding the course and course materials.

Students will be allowed two unexcused absences over the course of the semester. After two unexcused absences, semester grade will drop by one level for each unexcused absence (for example A+ will drop to A, A to A-, A- to B+ et...) **Excused absences are; illness, medical emergency, accident, death in family, University sponsored activities (athletic teams, et...) & MUST be accompanied by official written documentation.** Absences excused per above guidelines will not affect student grade.

Tardiness: Students will be allowed one tardy. After one, tardiness will incur a 1 point reduction in the 5 point participation/class discussion grade. Student is tardy if he/she arrives after official class time (9:00am).

If student arrives after 15 minutes late for a movement practicum session it may not be safe for the student to participate and he/she may be asked to sit out and observe, incurring a further point deduction from the movement practicum grade.

Observation: If a student is ill or injured or provides a valid reason to the instructor (prior to class) for non-participation in a movement session, student may sit out and observe. Students sitting out will hand in written class observations at the end of the session to earn participation credit.

Cell phone: **Cell phones must be silenced before start of class!!** If there is an emergency that requires your cell phone be left on; instructor must be notified before the start of class. **Failure to notify may result in loss of 1 point per disruption from the participation/class discussion grade.**

Late work: Late work will not be accepted except with documented approved absence (see 'attendance').

Missed work: missed work such as in-class assignments, homework, and quizzes cannot be made-up unless missed due to documented approved excused absence. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class, and once they have been collected, they cannot be taken late.

Extra Credit: Two opportunities for extra credit are available to each student. See eLearning for the extra credit options. Extra credit is due on the Monday of finals week before noon. Late extra credit assignments will not be accepted

Important Dates:

Last day to drop without a “W”	Wed., Sept. 7
Labor Day holiday	Mon., Sept. 5
WL begins	Tues., Oct. 4
WL ends	Thurs., Oct 27
<i>Crossing Borders</i> – University Theater	Thurs. October 13 - Sat. Oct. 15 @ 8:00pm
Fall break, no classes	Mon., Nov. 21 – Wed. Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Break	Thurs., Nov. 24- Sat. Nov. 26
Audition for Spring Dance Ensemble	TBA
Last day of classes	Wed., Dec. 7
Final Exams	Fri., Dec. 9 – Thurs., Dec. 15

Field Trip Policies

Students are responsible for obtaining their own tickets and providing their own transportation to and from dance concerts and any other events they choose to attend.

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.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.