

Online/Blended Course Syllabus

Course Information

DANC 1310/OH1

Understanding Dance

Summer 2017

Wednesday 8:30am-12:45pm/AH2 1.204

Professor Contact Information

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JO 5.502

By appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

none

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.

ART AND PERFORMANCE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to:

1. **Describe and apply methodology processes** – Students will be able to describe and apply basic methodologies and processes by which aesthetic judgments are made
2. **Demonstrate effective communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills
3. **Demonstrate knowledge of principles and history** – Students will demonstrate a broad knowledge of the principles and history of at least one major form of artistic expression
4. **Gain experience and expertise** – Students will gain experience and expertise 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.*

Required Textbooks and Materials

Textbook: Ambrosio, N. (2006). *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. (7th ed.)
Additional handouts will be distributed or posted on eLearning during the course of the semester.

In addition to the text offered in the campus bookstore you may also purchase the book or an online version. 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- 978-1-4652-0441-7

Suggested Course Materials

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through Off-Campus Books <http://www.offcampusbooks.com> or the UT Dallas Bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore/home>. They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs> on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html>.

Course Access and Navigation

The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see the course access and navigation <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav> section of the site for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html>.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp> services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the eLearning Tutorials webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html> for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students page <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm> for details.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

UNIT/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
1. 5/31	Review Syllabus/View Video Discussion on Study Questions Discussion on Choreographic Process, Time, Space, and Energy Discussion on Performance Analysis	Read Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 review notes on eLearning	Answer study questions found under assignment tab Be prepared for discussion next class. Research a Major Figure in Ballet/Follow Assignment instructions on eLearning Research a Major Figure in Modern Dance/Follow Assignment instructions on eLearning Research a Major Figure in	5/31 6/1 6/5

			Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre/Follow Assignment instructions on eLearning	6/7
2. 6/7	Discussion on Chapters 5, 6, 9 and research assignments	Read Chapter 8 and 10/Review notes on eLearning	Research a social dance (from the US) and a folk or world dance (significant to any country except the US)- Be prepared for discussion on 6/14 Exam 1 posted 6/9	6/12 6/16
3. 6/14	Discussion on Chapters 8, and 10, and research assignments Choose groups for social/world dance presentation and work with groups	Read Chapters 7 and 11/Review notes on eLearning	Choose groups for wikis presentations Social Dance Presentations Due	6/21
4. 6/21	Present Social Dance Presentations Discussion on Chapters 7 and 11 Introduction to Site Specific/Dance for Camera Choose groups and work on Final Presentations Theater workshop		Performance Analysis Due Site Specific/Dance Camera Assignment Exam 2 posted 6/23 Final Presentations	Due on or before 6/21 Due 6/28 6/30 Due on Final Exam Day 7/5 or 6
5. 6/28	Discussion on Site Specific/Dance Camera Assignment Class Activity			

	Guest Workshop			
6. 6/5 or 6	Final Presentations		2 nd Performance Attendance Due	7/5

Grading Policy

- 10% Attendance / Participation
- 20% Dance Performance Attendance and Analysis
- 20% Assignments
- 30% Exams
- 20% Final Presentation

Grade Scale

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

Course Policies

Class Participation

Participation and Attendance: 6 points (15 points during **summer** sessions) will be awarded at the beginning of class for the anticipated participation of the student. The student must participate according to activities planned for each class session. Participation includes paying attention, taking notes in class, participating in and being prepared for discussions and activities. Failure to fulfill any of the preceding requirements will result in a deduction in points already given.

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. **No electronic devices are allowed** in the classroom unless approved for use by the instructor. 6 points will be deducted from the daily participation/attendance grade for each violation of this policy.

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. 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 **one** excused absence (except during summer sessions, no absences are allowed) over the course of the semester. **Excused absences are; religious holidays, illness, medical emergency, accident, death in the immediate family, University sponsored activities (athletic teams, et..) & MUST be accompanied by official written documentation.** Absences excused per above guidelines will not affect student grade if the absence is made up (Please be aware that some classroom cannot be made up). Students will still be required to complete assignments for missed days by the required due date. Each class has a value of 6 points (**15 points** during **summer** sessions).

Tardiness: A student is tardy if he/she arrives after official starting class time (8:30am).

Late arrivals will result in a 1 point deduction if student arrives after class has begun up to the first 15 minutes of class. An additional 1 point deduction will be taken in 15 minute increments thereafter. For example, late arrivals from 8:45-9:00am will result in a 2 point deduction and deducted points will progress every 15 minutes up until 12:00pm. If student arrives after 12:00pm no points will be awarded that day. If student arrives after 15 minutes into 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.

Classroom Assignments: Assignments include study questions, readings, research assignments, presentations, and any other assignment given by the instructor for a specific class period.

Required Written Assignments: All written assignments must be turned in through eLearning, but student must be prepared to discuss assignments in class.

Research Assignments for Chapters 5, 6, and 9: Students are required to pick two out of these three assignments to submit. The instructor will assign specific time periods for students to choose significant figures. Details for each assignment will be given on eLearning.

Research Assignment for Chapters 8 and 10: Students will be required to research a social dance from the US and a folk or world dance that is significant to the culture of a country other than the US. Details for each assignment will be given on eLearning.

(Research Assignments for Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 will total 10% of the Assignment grade.)

Presentation Social/World Dance Assignment: 6 groups will collaborate to post research targeted on social and world dance. Details for the assignment will be posted on eLearning. This assignment will be 5% of the assignment grade.

Site Specific/Dance for Camera: Groups of 1-3 students will create their own work. Details will be outlined on the assignment page in eLearning. This assignment will be 5% of the assignment grade.

Final Presentation – The Final Presentation will be a group presentation on a Prominent Figure in Dance. This project will be given in class. Details for the assignment will be posted on eLearning.

Dance Performance Attendance and Written Analysis: Students will be required to attend 2 dance performances and write an analysis for one of the performances and smaller assignment will accompany the second performance. A program of the performance must accompany each paper or be turned in alone for attendance only requirement. Required concert attendance will be a concert of student's

choice from **the instructor's approved performance list**. A separate hand out will be posted with analysis requirements. Analysis and program will be turned in through 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. Write your name on the page or pages listing the information of dances performed, choreographer, composer or musical artist, any program notes about the dance, and dancers. When submitting a program only make sure to submit in the "text submission box" on the eLearning assignment link the concert attended, company or title of performance, venue, and date of attendance along with the required program.

Exams: Comprehensive exams on chapters from the text, eLearning notes, assignments, class activities, and video viewing will be given during the semester. All exams will be taken on eLearning. Make up exams will be offered only for extreme extenuating circumstances.

Written works (analysis, assignments, and required papers) must be typed, double spaced with 1 inch margins and 11-12 inch font size. Any research must use MLA format citing each reference. They will be graded on form (correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and organization) as well as content, creativity, and research analysis. All assignments are to be turned in on time through eLearning in order to receive full credit. Late assignments may be accepted, a 1 point deduction will be taken off the grade for each day it is late beginning on the due date (the only exceptions will be extenuating circumstances, which will be discussed with the facilitator ahead of time, if possible.) If you are unsure about your writing, present it to the facilitator well before the due date so the proper advice can be given with the assignment still remaining punctual. In most cases work more than two weeks late will not be accepted.

Missed work: missed work such as in class assignments and quizzes cannot be made-up unless missed due to documented approved excused absence.

Extra Credit: Please check with instructor for extra credit opportunities.

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.

Electronic Devices: **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 3 points per disruption from the participation/class discussion grade.**

Use of computers, tablets, or cell phones may only be used for note taking or research pertaining to topic being discussed during a particular class period. If the student chooses to use an electronic device it must be approved by the instructor prior to use. If approved, please be ready to show the instructor what is being viewed at any time requested during the class. Improper use could result in loss of participation points for that class.

Special Assignments

Additional Course requirements

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.

Students will be required to view and write an analysis for two live dance concerts (one during summer sessions). A list of approved dance concert performances to attend will be provided. 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. There is no need to include advertisements, Donor lists, or performer bios.

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.

Important Dates:

Last day of classes	July 3, 2017
Final Exam Day	July 5 or 6, 2017

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.