

THAD 115 DANCE APPRECIATION (3 credits)

Winona State University Course Syllabus
Spring Semester: Jan 11- May 6, 2010
TR (115-01) 9:30-10:50 or (115-04) 3:30-4:50
Location: Memorial rm. 300-- Dance Studio

Instructor: Matthew Nelson
Office: 125 Performing Arts Center

Phone: 507-457-5206
Email: Matnelson@winona.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:00-2:30 until 3/15/10, and then 10-1, TR 11-12:30 and 2:00-3:30
If you can't find me in PAC 125 I may be next door in PAC 127 or in Memorial 300.
The best thing is to email me to let me know you're coming.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES: This course satisfies the Fine and Performing Arts Core of the WSU University Studies program. It includes requirements and learning activities that promote students' abilities to:

- a. Explore the language, skills, and materials of an artistic discipline.
- b. Use methods of an arts practitioner to actively engage in creative processes or interpretive performances.
- c. To understand the cultural and gender contexts of artistic expression.
- d. Engage in reflective analysis of their own artwork or interpretive performance and respond to the work of others.

*Course activities and assignments that address these Fine and Performing Arts Requirements will be identified in the syllabus by letter (a), (b), (c), (d).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Dance Appreciation is an introduction to dance as a universal human activity, and also as a performative artistic discipline. Dance is an embodied expression of individual and communal value systems that can be utilized for artistic means, communication, social ritual, and/or reinforcement of cultural identity. This course will lead students through an analysis and appreciation of diverse theatrical and non-theatrical dance styles as well as contemporary trends in the art form within their cultural, historical and theoretical contexts. There will be an emphasis on active learning, teamwork, creative process, and kinesthetic involvement in relationship to dance that is seen, felt, created, and considered through the written word. Concurrent registration in THAD 090 required of dance minors unless excused by the department.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. To learn a theoretical framework and cultural context for understanding and valuing dance as an art form in American and "world" cultures. (a), (c)
- B. To experience a broad range of solo and ensemble choreography and performance in diverse theatrical styles and indigenous dance forms. (c)
- C. To become an audience member who participates in the creative process of viewing dance kinesthetically with heightened awareness, openness and intellectual engagement. (a), (d)
- D. To form written, verbal, and nonverbal aesthetic responses to the dance experience that reflect an understanding of the art form, and one's unique perceptions and interpretations in relationship to the work. (b), (d)
- E. To explore and practice creativity, particularly within the collaborative process of creating, performing and assessing an original dance. (b), (d)
- F. To explore the integration of current technologies with the art of dance. (a),(b),(c)

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN AND METHODS:

This class includes movement experiences, group projects, video, lecture, discussion, and concert attendance, with an emphasis on active participation and creative synthesis. Students are required to participate in an online forum on a weekly basis to practice the development of aesthetic discourse.

REQUIRED TEXT: See WSU Bookstore

Learning About Dance: *Dance as an Art Form and Entertainment* by Nora Ambrosio, 5th edition.

All other readings will be posted on e-reserve on the library website unless otherwise noted. To access:

- From the Library Homepage select *Course Reserves*
- From this page select *Electronic Reserves*
- From Docutek ERes select *Electronic Reserves and Reserves Pages*
- Select Tab *Course Reserves Pages by Instructor*
- From drop down menu select (*professor name*) then *Search*
- Select the required *course number* to view
- *Accept* the Copyright Clause
- Select the *Title* of the required item to view
- From the Document Info Screen select the *File name* to open the document

Other Requirements:

A ticket must be purchased for *Dancescape* (\$6 student price)

For the Dance for Camera project one group member must have a Macintosh computer or a portable external hard disk in order to use public machines for editing. A very large USB memory stick may suffice (16GB or larger suggested).

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. What is Dance?

- A. Exploring theory and materials of the art: body subject and body object, aesthetics, creativity as practice, expressive movement, LMA concepts of body, effort, shape, and space (a), (b)
- B. Defining dance in terms of how it is used in diverse contexts: artistic expression, therapy, education, ritual, play, religion, entertainment, socialization, exercise, cultural expression, maintenance of traditions and identities (c)
- C. The language of movement: kinesthetic response (kinesthesia); reading dance through the senses; abstraction; analysis; reflection (a) (d)
- D. Theatrical dance styles: Techniques, processes, and products (a), (b)
- E. Choreographic elements: compositional structures, form, content, technique, performance presence (a)(b)

II. Cultural Statement and Historic Roots (c), (d)

- A. Indigenous forms in world dance
- B. Evolution of European Theatrical Dance (Ballet)
- C. Evolution of Modern Dance
- D. African Roots of American Social Dance, Tap, Jazz, and Musical Theatre
- E. Contemporary Dance and Post Modernism
- F. Contemporary Issues in dance: diversity, gender, interdisciplinarity, technology, applications and relevance

III. Participation And Response (b), (d)

- A. Experiencing dance in context: self/self, self/other, self/group
- B. Choreography project: creative process, aesthetic inquiry, skill development
- C. Cultural dance project: research, movement analysis, cultural anthropology
- D. Using a framework for reflective analysis: form, content, technique, presence, and staging
- E. Dance writing: descriptive prose, analysis, and poetic/metaphoric language
- F. Video Project: Integration of dance, community, and technology

CLASS ASSESSMENT: (Subject to updates) *Week to week class outline will be provided

CLASS ATTENDANCE---See Attendance Policy p. 6 (a), (b), (c). Significant penalties for absence.

25% QUALITY OF CLASS PARTICIPATION—Including in class assignments or quizzes.
(See Participation Guidelines p. 6) (b), (d)

10% WEB FORUM

Some weeks a topic will be provided for discussion on D2L. An email will be sent to let you know. It is required that you participate on these weeks by Friday at 11:59pm. The primary purpose of the forum is to develop your skills in analysis, description, reflection, and interpretation. As a guideline I ask that you write approximately one to two paragraphs for a total of about 10 sentences. Your grade will be based on your engagement with the forum discussion as a whole discourse, and the content of your response in relation to readings, class discussions, and your personal experience. It will be graded as no credit, half credit, or full credit. Forum participation will also affect your general participation grade.

10% GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT- CULTURAL FORMS (a)(b)(c)

In small groups students will provide research, analysis, and experience of different cultural dances through oral presentation, video, and dance instruction. As all dances have a relationship with the culture in which they are danced, there will be many possibilities.

More guidelines to follow.

10 % PERFORMANCE RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT (a),(b),(d)

*More guidelines to follow

*Any preexisting conflict must be reported to instructor in writing in class by our 3rd class

*Save performance program to hand in with response, stapled to back of paper

You must see both of the following:

Winona State University's Theater and Dance Department presents *Dancescape* February 11-13 at 7:30pm on the Performing Arts Center Main Stage. \$6 for students

Winona State University's Lyceum Series presents the Joe Goode Performance Group on Monday Feb. 15th at 7:30pm on the Performing Arts Center Main Stage. Free. If you have a conflict in the evening it may be possible to watch the dress rehearsal at 2:30pm that same day. (Please speak with me beforehand)

This 2-3 page paper will act as a midterm, utilizing your skills with movement description and interpretation (valuation optional) to compare and contrast elements of these productions.

15% CREATIVE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT (b), (d)

Choreographic Project Goals:

- To experience the creative process and integrate ideas with kinesthetic experience
- To collaborate with other students on a creative project
- To reflect on your creation and synthesize key learning experiences

This is your opportunity to learn more about dance as an art form through creating and performing your own group dance. This creative process includes:

- 1) Researching your dance theme by finding resources, ideas, images that inspire and engage you
- 2) Brainstorming ideas and movement and improvising in order to create choreography related to a theme
- 3) Rehearsing to refine, practice, and polish choreography including overall structure and flow of dance
- 4) Performing your dance project in class
- 5) Assessing your work and your peers' work based on the criteria of:
 - a) Dance choreography- physical structure and development of the dance
 - b) Content- ideas and meanings infused into the dance
 - c) Technique- skills and clarity of execution of the dance
 - d) Performance quality- communication, focus and energy of the dancing

Grading criteria includes: required project length, equal/balanced group involvement, clear theme(s), creativity, movement depth and invention within vocabulary/concepts, physical challenge/risk, performance quality, integrated choreographic and production elements.

5% CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT SELF-ASSESSMENT/SYNTHESIS (1-2 full pages) (b), (d)
DUE: One week after performance

The primary question: What has been a key learning experience for you in this collaborative group choreography project, connecting to class as well as your own life?
In short form: What did you learn from doing this assignment?
More details to follow.

Self-Assessment/Synthesis grading criteria includes: correct format and length, clear addressing of the question with specific examples and details (including movement description), correct spelling and grammar.

15% DANCE FOR CAMERA ASSIGNMENT (b), (d)

Movement on film is different from live movement because the interaction of the camera with the mover(s) changes how the mover(s) are perceived. The dance of the camera is mediated not only by the movement of the camera itself, but is also significantly affected by the editing process. The purpose of this project is to integrate technology so that we can look at and interact with dance from the choreographic point-of-view without simultaneously having to perform the dance itself.

10% DANCE FOR CAMERA REVIEW PAPER (2-3 full pages) (b), (d)

This essay will act as your final for the class. It's purpose is to utilize your more fully developed skills in movement description and interpretation (valuation optional) to write critically about a dance for camera project from class other than your own. You may choose any of your classmates' projects to review. They will be on the local network class server in the public folder, where you will upload them upon completion. If technology permits they will also be on a DVD at the library reserve desk.

MORE ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENTS/PAPERS: (*Note: Emailed assignments are not accepted)

All assignments must be submitted on time at or before the beginning of the class period of due date, and typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins all around. Staple multiple pages together.

*Note: Use double sided print option in Print function on computer, varies for Mac vs. PC

*You can also print on paper already used once, just make an X through the side that's not part of the assignment before you hand in.

In top left corner, single spaced, include: student's name, class section, date. On the second line include instructor and assignment title. Aesthetic appearance and clarity of your papers or assignments will affect your grade. Note the following:

Rainy Bumblehoot, Thad 115-01, 1/7/10.
Prof. Nelson, Formatting Assignment.

This is the beginning of the first paragraph. The paper is double spaced from here on.

Grade will be lowered by a full letter grade for each calendar day late up to 3 days maximum. Assignments will be considered late if they are not submitted at the beginning of class period. Assignment submitted the same day post class will drop ½ letter grade.

Plagiarism results in automatic failure of the course.

Please don't write "you," when you mean "I."

With all of these assignments, more detailed instructions will be provided prior to the deadline. Students are responsible to read and follow all guidelines.

ADDITIONAL CLASS REQUIREMENTS & INFORMATION:

Students dance in movable clothing, i.e. workout clothes, sweats, or dancewear and barefoot (socks are to start with for warmups.) No jeans, everyday or dress clothes or overly long pants. Hair pulled off face and no dangling earrings, necklaces or watches. No gum chewing.

When you arrive for class, please put all personal items in the cubbies and be changed and ready to start on time. Please do not walk on the dance floor with shoes on.

Restrooms are located on the first floor of Memorial.

Bring a pen or pencil and a notebook to each class, as well as any requested materials. Computers may sometimes be useful.

A water bottle is highly recommended.

Please turn off all cell phones for the duration of class, thank you.

Use of phones/texting in class will SEVERELY effect your grade!

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

ATTENDANCE and class participation is required, of course. No unnecessary absences, please. Students are responsible to let the instructor know why you were absent, and catch up on class material, consulting with classmates as needed. ****Illness is not an excused absence, even with a doctor's note.**

***You are allowed 2 absences without affecting your grade and no need to provide documentation.**

More than 2 absences will also drop your total class grade ONE LETTER for each class missed.

For example, with 3 absences the highest total class grade you can achieve is a B.

Attendance will also affect participation grade.

*Exceptions will be made for athletic events with appropriate documentation. Be in touch with me BEFOREHAND for appropriate make up.

Tardiness: Being late to class 2x is equivalent to 1 absence, if the lateness is less than 10 minutes. If you are more than 10 minutes late to a dance class without having notified the instructor in advance you may not participate in the class and that class will be counted as 1 absence.

*Be sure to speak with the instructor after class if you come in late so your presence can be recorded, the student is responsible to be marked for attendance once names have been called or the sign in clipboard has been passed around class.

*If you need to leave class early, it will count as a 1/2 absence if more than 10 minutes and please alert instructor ahead of time.

Active Observation Without Participation: You are responsible for assessing your own state of health in consultation with your doctor. If you are unable to dance, you may actively observe up to **3 classes** without participating. This active observation will include describing and commenting on class content and movement components. Handwritten documentation on movement observations and class content will be handed in to the instructor at the end of the class period.

Makeup Classes:

DUE: 1 WEEK AFTER MAKEUP UNTIL END OF CLASSES

*Students are allowed **3 makeup classes maximum.**

Makeup class approval **must** be requested from Matt ahead of time to ensure it is an appropriate substitute. Request permission via email from makeup class instructor (if not Matt) and introduce yourself when you arrive for class. Obtain a signature from the makeup class instructor with the date of attendance, and hand that in, along with a 1 paragraph typed written summary of movement aspects you experienced in class and your response.

Appropriate makeup classes: See Memorial 300 studio door for days and times and THAD website for faculty email contact info. Speak with Matt for approval.

Students are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance if class is to be missed and are responsible to contact a classmate for missed notes and material.

Injury Policy: Credit for all classes is contingent upon participation. If a student has or incurs an injury in the course of study resulting in **more than a 1 week layoff (2 classes)** from active participation, it is the student's responsibility to consult with the teacher as to creative options for the learning process or withdrawal from the class.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: All students are expected to come to class prepared and focused, with an open and respectful attitude towards the instructor, their peers and themselves. Students are also expected to contribute to a safe and trusting environment, including a nonjudgmental approach towards learning, a willingness to take risks, make mistakes, ask questions, and support one another.

Students are also responsible for tracking their own attendance, and all content covered in class, including retention of material from week to week.

When you arrive for class, please prepare by spending time warming up, reviewing class material or focusing yourself. Once class begins, maintain a focused attentive concentration on class material and participate fully in every aspect of class including creative exercises, assignments, research, projects and discussions.

*Quality of class participation includes: good energy level each class, attentiveness to lectures and videos, contributions to class discussions and group work, completion of in class writings or exercises, full participation in movement aspects of class including both physical and creative components. Please note Grading Explanations below for evaluation standards for grading.

EXTRA CREDIT: **DUE: 1 WEEK AFTER EVENT UNTIL END OF CLASSES**

Students may earn extra credit by attending an additional events handing in a typewritten summary response, 1 full page minimum, discussing dance/movement related aspects and proof of attendance.

***Each student may do 2 EC assignments worth 1/3 letter grade each, for a max. of 2/3 grade added to your final class grade.**

See course calendar and “Area Dance Performance Calendar Spring 2010” on D2L, WSU Update, class announcements or consult instructor to find alternative event. Also:

*THAD Theater Events

*Arts Improvisation Jams, Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm, Memorial 300 dance studio, Feb. 18, Apr. 22
FREE, no experience necessary

WRITING CENTER INFO: Call 457-5505 or email wcenter@winona.edu for appointments and information and visit the Writing Center website for writing resources and the “Online Tutor” service.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Full statement on D2L

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All work produced by a student must represent that student’s personal effort, unless the instructor specifically permits or requires that it be done by a group. Papers and other work which a student prepares for class will contain only the student’s own words or, if the material originated with someone else, will enclose the quoted words in quotation marks and supply the complete

bibliographical information in a footnote or endnote. Summaries or paraphrases of the words and ideas of other people must also be documented in this fashion. Work that does not exhibit these characteristics is a form of academic dishonesty known as plagiarism. This will result in strict sanctions including an automatic F for the course.

GRADING EXPLANATIONS

A=work of outstanding nature that exceeds course standards and depicts a deep and thorough understanding of subject matter

B=work that is above average in quality and thoroughness and depicts a mastery of the subject matter

C=Work of a satisfactory nature in quality and thoroughness and depicts a basic understanding of subject matter

D=Work that is substandard in nature and depicts a limited understanding of subject matter

F= Failure of the course