The University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2023

DANC 1304
CRN 24526
DANCE APPRECIATION

Class meets: In person
Tues. & Thurs. from 1:30pm-2:50pm
Classroom @ Liberal Arts Building 106

Instructor: Ashley Kroft
aekroft@utep.edu
**Please, communicate with the instructor via email (not with Blackboard messaging. I will not respond.)

Office hours:

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<tr>
<td>In person</td>
<td>@ Fox Fine Arts</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
<td>Mondays, 1:30-2:30 pm</td>
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Public health:
Considering Covid-19, it is optional to bring to class your own mask and hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently. Stay at home if you experience Covid-19 symptoms and check the Attendance Policy and Campus Sources for Covid indicated here.

Course Description:
This course gives an introduction to dance styles as a socially and politically relevant art form through lecture and participant-driven interaction. While dance also works as a form of self-expression and self-fulfillment, through lectures and studio sessions, this class focuses how bodies relate to dance and how dance is constructed. We’ll explore various dance forms across geographical areas and eras from an intersectional perspective.
In order to appreciate dance’s complex functions, this course also offers analytical methods to look at dance and choreography through various sources, such as live performance, recorded and digital outputs, iconographic materials, oral histories, and embodied experiences. Guest speakers and on-site visits will help us expand what we consider dance and where we can find it. Throughout the course, students will acquire the tools and vocabulary to look at and talk about dance from a Dance Studies perspective.

This course encourages an open, interactive, and energetic environment in which participants, while working with commitment and rigor, feel free to respectfully express curiosities, doubts, and questions. Also, you’ll be asked to move, according to your possibilities, capabilities, and will—so come to class with clothes that allow you to move around a bit.

**Learning Goals:**
- Demonstrated capacity to engage with dance from a social and political standpoint
- Demonstrated capacity to recognize and connect the different elements that constitute a dance (bodies, movement quality, how bodies relate to each other, context, props, relationship with the audience, etc.)
- To articulate a dance studies terminology explored in class and through assigned materials
- To creatively, critically, and collaboratively respond to assignments
- To enhance social skills; goals for the human being, not only for the “student” at stake.

**Readings and materials:**
Reading materials will be posted to Blackboard under “Reading Materials” tab prior to class for you to read and become familiar with its contents. All visuals will be shared during our class time. If you miss a class, you will need to get with a classmate on what you missed.

**Mandatory Performances (2 total):**
Must choose one from List A & one from List B

**List A**
**HEROES AND SAINTS**  - The Wise Family Theatre  
February 24, 25, March 3,4 @ 7:30pm  
February 26 & March 5 @ 2:30  
*Student Matinee: March 1 @ 10:00 A.M.*

**RAISING THE BARRE**, UTEP + Desert Dance fundraising concert.  
February 2, 3, 4 @ 7:30 PM; June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre.  
Tickets at UTEP Ticket Center (2 locations: next to Don Haskins or Union East, room 111) or online on Ticketmaster (fee applies). Ushering opportunity, email: mmelpignano@utep.edu
List B

GATHERING FOR WATER: DANCE FESTIVAL 2023
- WhenWaterFalls.
April 28, 29 @ 7:30 pm – The Wise Family Theatre
April 30 @ 2:30pm -The Wise Family Theatre
Tickets at UTEP Ticket Center (2 locations: next to Don Haskins or Union East, room 111) or online on Ticketmaster (fee applies)

THE FULL MONTY – Dinner Theatre Performance
April 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,

*EXTRA CREDIT Non-mandatory Performances:

THE PROM – Dinner Theater Performance
February 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

If you cannot pay for a ticket, there are ushering opportunities for theatre performances. Students can sign up to usher all of our productions. They need to come to the audience development office (lobby of the Wise Theatre in Fox Fine Arts level 2) in person to sign up.

For events hosted by the Dinner Theater check: https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/udt/index.html.

Check out the Departmental Events for more information and tickets: https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/index.html

Grading

40 possible points:
- In-class group discussions and assignments, participation, commitment, discussion boards, work ethic and movement classes.
*You are expected to come to class on time and prepared with the assigned materials already explored. Being tardy will count against your attendance and participation grade (see the policy below). The movement classes and discussion boards are a about half of your participation points. Fail to show up for the movement classes will result in lowering your grade due to the discussion boards content regarding the specific movement class(es).
10 possible points:
- 2 Reflection papers on the 2 mandatory performances (see above “Mandatory Performances”)

*1- 1.5 page MAX, double spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12 paper in which you offer an analysis of a performance that focuses on movement and the body, and in which you highlight the social and political relevance of the performance.

25 possible points:
- Mid-term: group poster about your fieldwork to bring to class to present during week 8.

*In groups assigned by instructor, you have to find a dance event to attend as a group or dance researchers in order to create a poster (text and visuals) which has to be able to express and communicate to a general audience the social and political relevance of the dance you analyzed. Possible fieldwork could include taking a dance class in a style that is new or unfamiliar to you, attending a dance concert, participating in a community or social dance event, interviewing a (former) professional dancer, finding archival dance documents, etc.

25 possible points:
- Final: Dance Reflection paper on Thursday, May 11th, 2023 on Blackboard

*For your final exam, A 2-page, double spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12 paper in which you’ll be asked to reflect on how this course overall has informed/shifted/shaped your understanding of dance.

A (32-35 pts) = evidence of original thought; a clear and compelling shift in knowledge that is well articulated; vivid movement description; impeccable writing style and mechanics; good flow and organization; impeccable grammar and spelling.

B (29-31) = evidence of independent thought; presence of a clear shift in knowledge; good movement description; good writing style and mechanics; adequate organization and flow; minimal grammar and spelling errors.

C (25-28) = largely descriptive; acceptable writing style, mechanics, and some flow; a few grammar and spelling errors.

D (21-24) = convoluted writing and mechanics; some misunderstanding of information; adequate writing style and flow; an abundance of grammar and spelling errors.

F (20 and below) = extremely convoluted writing characterized by errors, incorrect descriptions, and/or plagiarism.

GRADING SCALE
A = 90 +
University and Departmental Policies:

Subject Matter. The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects that may trigger specific emotions, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual's rights to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

Technical Support. If you do not know how to use Blackboard – go to Tech Support Room 300 at Library immediately. Do not wait until you do not understand until you are having problems. You can contact Help Desk via email, helpdesk@utep.edu, by phone 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4p.

Academic Dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarizing, or taking a test for another student is considered a very serious matter at UTEP. Our library webpage provides good information on what UTEP considers Academic Dishonesty and what steps the university takes in such cases. Please review this information at: http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php. Refer also to the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs.

Copyright and Fair Use. Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Copying from textbooks is not “fair use” under the Copyright Act. Your cooperation is expected. The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

Students with Disabilities Policy. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Absence/Lateness/Participation Policy. In a course that meets twice a week, a student is allowed a maximum of 4 absences in an entire semester, 2 of which require no justification and result in no penalty. A student may use these absences based on personal
The third and fourth absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the fifth absence, regardless of the student’s current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails the course. Three tardees (over 10 minutes late) count as one absence.

**Exceptions:**

- In the event of international bridge closures, exceptions may be made, and make-up course work assigned.
- In case of an injury or extended illness, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with his or her instructor to discuss possible solutions for course continuation or to consider dropping the class.
- In the event of highly unusual or extenuating circumstances, a student may petition the course instructor and department chair for permission to continue in a course.
- In case of Covid related illness, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with (via zoom if necessary) to discuss possible solutions to make-up course work.


**Audio-visual recordings.** The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is strongly discouraged in class, unless required by the instructor for pedagogical purposes. Audio and visual recordings (videos or pictures) must be authorized by the instructor and by the subjects involved in the audio-visuals. To store, post, or share by any means and/or for personal use or public consumption audio and visual products without explicit authorization by the subjects involved is illegal. Make sure to ask for permission in case.

**On-Campus Sources of Student support**
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/)
- Miner Learning Center [https://www.utep.edu/mlc/](https://www.utep.edu/mlc/)
- University Writing Center [https://www.utep.edu/uwc/](https://www.utep.edu/uwc/)
- Counseling and Psychological Services [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/)

Students are encouraged to speak with professionals from UTEP’s Counseling and Psychological Services on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Union Building West, Room 202. In addition, the Miners Talk Crisis Line at 915-747-5302 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.


**Campus Policy and Sources on COVID-19**
For policies, vaccination resources, testing, and updates, please visit: [https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/](https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/)
Mask-wearing and social distance are highly encouraged.
If you experience symptoms or have been exposed to Covid, please see the *Attendance Policy* above.