DANCE APPRECIATION

Class meets: In person
M/W from 3pm - 4:20pm
Classroom @ Undergraduate Learning Center 216

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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<td>@ Fox Fine Arts M211</td>
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<td>Mondays and Wednesday, 12am-1pm</td>
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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
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 (BB) 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. If you ask me, I will tell you to reach out to a classmate.

**Mandatory Performances (2 total):**
Performances will be posted on BB. Please check in often to find two performances that fit with your schedule.

*EXTRA CREDIT Non-mandatory Performances:*
Will be posted on BB as they arise.

**If you cannot afford a ticket, there are ushering opportunities for departmental performances.** Students can sign up to usher all departmental productions via the Theatre and Dance Audience Development office. Ushering opportunities open one month before opening night. Ushers will see the production for free and must commit to the full time they are needed. If an usher doesn't show up or leaves early, they will not receive credit for seeing the show and will not be allowed to usher for future events.
Also keep your emails/announcements checked for **Tickets in Kind** opportunities. Tickets in Kind are free tickets for students, donated by audience members and faculty.

**Grading**

**33 possible points:**
- In-class group discussions and assignments, participation, commitment, 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 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).

**22 possible points:**
- Discussion Board (DB) Assignments. You will have 7 Discussion Boards or written responses online on Blackboard. Each response is worth between 1-10 points for 22 pts. Read each assignment carefully to receive full points.

**10 possible points:**
- 2 Reflection papers on the 2 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, you have to find a dance event to attend as a group 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: Site Specific Dance Project to be showcased on **Wednesday, December 13th, 2023** on BB.

You, the Choreographer: Site specific dance project. You will create a “site specific dance” as your final project. Site specific choreography means a dance that takes place in a non-traditional space and utilizes elements of that space as part of the dance. We will talk more about this as the semester progresses.

**GRADING SCALE**
A = 103 +
B = 92 – 102
C = 81 – 91
D = 69 – 80
F = < 68

**Late Work and Make-ups:**

- If you missed the deadline to submit an assignment, you will not receive credit.
- Extra Credit will be given out sporadically this semester; keep checking BB for those opportunities if you miss an assignment or participation points.
- This class relies so heavily on collaboration and interactions, making up missed work will be very difficult or impossible in some cases. **It would be in your best interest to mark your calendars of when assignments are due!**

**Important dates:**

- Town Hall Day: **August 30th, Wednesday @ 10:30am** (required for all theatre & dance majors/minors)
- Labor Day Holiday (no school): **September 4th, Monday**
- Mid-term: **Monday, October 16th**
- **NO CLASS:** Wednesday, October 18th
- **NO CLASS:** November 22nd, Wednesday (before Thanksgiving)
- Thanksgiving Holiday (no school): **November 23rd & 24th (Thursday/Friday)**
- Final: **Wednesday, December 13th**
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.

Technology Problems: Technology problems are NOT an excuse for work that is late or missing. Students need to get into the habit of completing assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with technology problems. Expect that at some time, the network will be down, computers will go on the fritz, or some other small catastrophes will occur. Contact IT for technological problems and remember the Atlas lab in the UGLC or LACIT in the Liberal Arts building provide assistance with using Blackboard.

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
necessity. The 3rd and 4th absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the 5th absence, regardless of the student’s current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails the course. Three tardies (over 10 minutes late) count as one absence. If you acquired 3 or 4 absences by the end of the semester, I will pull from your participation points.

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.

See also the UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies at http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/.

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.

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is NOT permitted in this course.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

On-Campus Sources of Student support

- Center for Accommodations and Support Services https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/
- Student Success Helpdesk https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-helpdesk.html
- Miner Learning Center https://www.utep.edu/mlc/
- University Writing Center https://www.utep.edu/uwc/
- Counseling and Psychological Services 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.