DANCE APPRECIATION

Class meets: In person
M/W from 1:30pm - 2:50pm
Classroom @ Education Building 112

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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<th>options</th>
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<tr>
<td>In person</td>
<td>@ Fox Fine Arts M211</td>
<td>Upon Request</td>
<td>Wednesday’s, 10:30am-11:30am</td>
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|           |                   |          | *If this time does not work, we can communicate another time.

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:**
- **In-person:** 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.
- **Online:** Reading materials & assignments will be in Online Assignments container on BB. These are assignments of the dates I will not be here. Please mark dates & times in your calendars for assignments due on BB.

**Grading**

**Participation In Class** 200 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).

**Online Assignments** 130 possible points:
- Online discussion board assignments & quizzes. Read each assignment carefully to receive full points.
**Mandatory Performances (2 total) 20 possible points:**

Performances will be posted on BB. Please check in often to find two performances that fit with your schedule. If you are in the performance, come talk/email me.

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 (lobby of the Wise Theatre in Fox Fine Arts level 2). 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.

For each event attended, you must write a 1.5 - 2 page MAX, double spaced, size 12 font Times New Roman reflection of the performance in which you are offering an analysis of the movement and the body and how it is relevant to society today.

For events hosted by the Dinner Theater check: [https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/udt/index.html](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](https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/index.html)

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**Midterm Class 50 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.
Final Class  

50 possible points:
- Final: Site Specific Dance Project to be showcased on [ Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 ] 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 = 405 – 450 +
B = 360 – 404
C = 315 – 359
D = 270 – 314
F = < 269

Late Work and Make-ups:
- For every day your assignment is late, you will lose a FULL letter grade.
- Extra Credit will be given out sporadically this semester; keep checking BB for those opportunities if you miss an assignment or participation points.
- Because some of our classes will be online, it would be in your best interest to mark your calendars of when assignments are due!

Important dates:
- Town Hall Day: TBD, Wednesday, Jan. 24th, @ 10:30am (required for all theatre & dance majors/minors)
- Spring Break: March 11th-15th
- Mid-term: Tuesday, March 5th
- Final: Wednesday and/or Thursday, May 1st and/or 2nd
- End of year Dance & Theatre Celebration: Friday, May 10th
- Dates I will be out of town (which means you have an BB online assignment):
  - Feb. 19th, Monday
  - Feb. 26th, Monday
  - Mar. 4th, Monday
  - Mar. 11th, Monday
  - Mar. 18th, Monday
  - Mar. 25th, Monday
  - Apr. 8th, Monday
  - Apr. 15th, Monday
  - Apr. 22nd, Monday
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**

**AI allowed only with prior permission from instructor**

- Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.
If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”
Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgement

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

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Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

Using AI for brainstorming

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Free use of AI without acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.
Pregnant and Parenting Students; Title IX

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

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-successhelpdesk.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.