Syllabus Fall 2016

DANC 4340 18175 and CHIC 4350 17360  Special Topics/ Dances of Mexico and Spain

TR 12:00 – 1:20 in LART 206 (T) and Magoffin Aud. (R)

Instructor: Lisa Smith  lisas@utep.edu  Fox M 200

Office hours TR 10:30 – 12:00

Guest Instructors: Jaime Carrasco and Nina Gomez

Course Description: This course offers an opportunity for students both with and without previous or formal dance training to experience the passion, variety, and beauty of different dance styles found in the countries of Mexico and Spain. Both of these countries, whose roots run deep in our border culture here in El Paso, are rich in the embodied language of dance. Dance serves as an important “lens” through which we can examine the cultural identity of those who practice it. When these dance cultures are part of our own heritage and locale, they serve to tell us something about ourselves as well.

Classes consist of weekly lecture/discussions and active dance workshops. Our lectures (both online and face to face) will be made up of readings about various dance events and genres occurring in past and present regions of Mexico and Spain. Students will be responsible for written responses to the readings, and they will have weekly quizzes over the readings and discussions.

In order to understand dance, we must move! Dance is an experience of the body, intellect, and soul, therefore, in order to truly KNOW it we must DO it. Students will participate in weekly dance workshops. This kinesthetic experience will be a wonderful opportunity to work with experts in the field, to experience the confidence of mastering a new skill, and to work collaboratively with fellow students to create art and community in the classroom. Students WILL NOT be graded on their dancing skills, only on their willingness to participate. Students will not need formal dance clothes.

Dance workshops will be taught by Jaime Carrasco, artistic director of Ballet Folklorico Quetzales and Nina Gomez, artistic director of Danzas Españolas. Presentations by other guests and students will also be included as availability permits.

Course Objectives: To explore the embodied language of regional dances from the countries of Mexico and Spain. To study the social contexts of these dances and analyze how they form a cultural identity among the peoples, regions, and nations they represent.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to 1) recognize and perform basic dance steps and patterns associated with various dances practiced in Mexico and Spain. Students will 2) know basic vocabulary and methodology associated with these dances, 3) enjoy the collaborative and creative nature of folk dance, and perhaps most importantly, 4) students will begin an understanding of the importance of art, movement, and dance in creating a cultural identity and vibrant cultural practice in any society.

Required Materials: All readings for this course will be found on the course Blackboard site. Students are required to attend and review a performance of Spanish music and Dance on October 20th in the UTEP Music Recital Hall. There are no other materials required.
**Grading:** Students will be graded weekly on readings and lectures through Discussion Boards worth 10 pts. each and weekly quizzes worth 5 pts. each.

Discussion Boards $13 \times 10 = 130$ pts.

Quizzes $13 \times 5 = 65$ pts.

Students earn 10 pts. for each class they attend with full participation. You may have one absence before your grade is affected. There are 28 class meetings.

$10 \times 28 = 280$ pts.

Performance Review $= 15$ pts.

Class evaluations $= 10$ pts.

Total available points $500$

A $= 450$ and above

B $= 400 – 459$

C $= 350 – 399$

D $= 300 - 349$

**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](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php)

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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.

**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.

**University Writing Center:** Located in the Library room 227, UTEP’s University Writing Center (UWC) offers free tutoring assistance in writing for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help you understand any writing assignment and will work with you to aid you in comprehending difficult material.

**Additional Writing Support:** The Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl) http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ is a fine online writing resource that will help you with your final project.