

**World Dance DANC 3322**

Course: DANC 3322

CRN: 27365

**Spring 2020**

**Instructor: Dr. Melissa Melpignano**

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Class meets: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 – 10:20 AM  
Psychology Building, Room 307

Office Hours: Tuesday 10.30-11.30 AM in Fox Fine Arts Center – Music M211  
or by appointment  
Always sign-up for a time slot at <https://drmelissamelpignano.youcanbook.me>

**Course description**

This class examines practices of choreography, improvisation, communal dances, and techniques in different cultural settings and historical eras, while interrogating its title: Can we even talk about “world dance”? Through readings, videos, practical workshops, podcasts, live performance, guest speakers, in-class discussions, and lectures, this course provides theoretical and methodological instruments to critically look at dance practices framed as “global,” “international,” “multicultural,” “transnational,” etc. from a dance studies perspective.

In their final research paper, students are encouraged to bring original contributions and pursue their specific scholarly interests while applying the theoretical and critical frameworks and methods explored in class.

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.

**Learning Goals:**

- Demonstrated dance analysis skills
- Critical engagement with the theoretical frameworks explored in class in both discussions and writing
- Commitment to academic language and writing codes
- Capacity to engage with dance as a social, political, and artistic practice

**Readings and other materials:** All assigned materials and videos showed in class will be posted on Blackboard

## **Mandatory Performances (2 total)**

- *American College Dance Association (ACDA) conference event, An evening with guest artists:*  
Guest artists Lux Boreal, a dynamic Tijuana-based contemporary dance company known for complex and stunning dances, and solo artist Gesel Mason, creator of BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers.

Saturday, March 14, 7 PM

Fox Fine Arts Center, Wise Family Theatre

\$20

- *Into the Beautiful North*

April 24 through May 3 (check the

Fox Fine Arts Center, Wise Family Theatre

\$12 UTEP Students

→ Get tickets in person at the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance Box Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Fox Fine Arts.

## **Grading**

- In-class discussions, participation, questions on materials, commitment, and work ethic **20**

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).

For each assigned material (either visual, textual, or audio), you will post a “curiosity question” on Blackboard in the “Curiosity Questions” Discussion Board. All questions are due the day before class by 5 PM.

You are *highly encouraged* to meet with me to discuss your research topic by week 5.

- Choreographic analysis of one of the mandatory performances (due max. the week after the performance) **10**

A 2-page, double spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12 paper in which you offer an analysis of a performance that includes movement and choreographic descriptions, intertwined with a critical reflection based on the theoretical issues analyzed in class and in the assigned materials.

- Mid-term: outline of the final paper and peer-review (deadline: Tuesday, March 10, 2019) **20**

The mid-term includes the outline of your final paper, and your comments on a classmate’s outline (total of two documents). The outline is a 1-2 page, single spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12 document that includes structure and tentative content *and* argument of your final paper, with explicit references to scholarly works. It can be organized in bullet points. The peer-reviewed outline includes constructive and rigorous questions, comments, and suggestions on the author’s engagement with theories, the structure, the tentative argument. Submit both documents in hard copy in class.

- Final research paper (deadline: Tuesday, May 12, 2019) **50**

An 11-13 page, double spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12 paper in which you offer an original analysis of *one* dance-based work through dance studies methods and through a deep and provoking engagement with pertinent theories explored during the course. The paper will be evaluated according to: your evident understanding of and ability to use methodologies of dance studies and related disciplines; your ability to describe movement using the appropriate writing strategy (for example, prose, poetry, or other genre); your ability to conduct research, using the theories, approaches, and ideas engaged in class; your ability to propose an original argument strongly supported by dance analysis and theories. Citations need to follow the Chicago Manual of Style 17<sup>th</sup> ed. (see <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>). Submit on Blackboard.

A = evidence of original thought; a clear and compelling argument that is well articulated; critical use of appropriate source materials; use of a range of source materials; vivid movement description; impeccable writing style and mechanics; good flow and organization; proper citation protocols.

B= evidence of independent thought; presence of a clear argument; use of a range of good source materials; good movement description; good writing style and mechanics; adequate organization and flow; proper citation protocols.

C = largely descriptive; use of adequate sources; acceptable writing style, mechanics, and citation protocols.

D = convoluted writing and mechanics; some misunderstanding of information; adequate writing style and citation protocols.

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

## GRADING SCALE

A = 90 +

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 65 – 69

F = < 65

## 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](mailto: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 of 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](mailto: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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

### **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](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.

- Equal Opportunity Office, Anti-Sexual Harassment and Anti-Sexual Violence Sources <https://www.utep.edu/eoaa/resolving-complaints/sexual-harassment-guide.html>