

DANC 2345 – Contemporary I

Fall 2016

TR 10:30 – 11:50 AM

FOX M201

Instructor: S. Paola Lopez R.

Office: FOX M211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 2:45 PM or by appointment.

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This syllabus is subject to change. I will notify you promptly if the changes will affect assignments in any way.

Course Description:

Contemporary Dance is a broad dance style that borrows from various techniques from different time periods and cultures. This class will introduce basic contemporary and modern dance techniques as well as some postmodern dance practices including improvisation and dance-making. Through exercises and combinations (on the floor, center and across the floor), we will work on strengthening the body, increasing flexibility, fostering musicality and enhancing our body awareness and performance presence.

Course Objectives:

- √ To enhance awareness and skill of movement initiation and motivation
- √ To improve muscular strength, flexibility, and elasticity
- √ To improve dance presence and performance quality
- √ To develop modern and contemporary dance vocabulary
- √ To understand and identify 4/4 and 3/4 meter in music
- √ To expand our conception of aesthetics in dance
- √ To understand basic history of this dance form

Assignments:

- Reading responses: There will be two (2) readings throughout the semester that you will respond to in writing reflections. The readings will be uploaded to blackboard at least a week in advance. **Due October 4th and November 15th.**
- Video responses: You will be assigned to watch a modern/contemporary dance video (or playlist) and turn in a response via blackboard. **Due September 15th and October 27th.**
- Performance Response: You will be required to attend the dance concert *in-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration* and respond to your experience (see attached for guidelines). **Due November 8th.**
- Movement Midterm exam: You will have a midterm movement assessment on **October 18th.**
- Creative dance project: For your final you will create a short dance in small groups. Your group and choreography technique will be assigned on **October 20th** and you will perform it the last day of class on **December 1st** as your final (Guidelines to be handed out with group assignments).

Attendance Policy:

You have two (2) absences permitted during the course of the semester without penalty. After that, **your grade will be lowered by 1/2 letter grade for each day missed.** Keep in mind that coming to class 5+ minutes late or leaving 5+ minutes early will be considered as 1/2 an absence.

If you have an injury or otherwise don't feel like moving, but are well enough to come to class, download and fill out the Observation Guidelines (available on blackboard) while you observe to get your participation points. You are allowed two (2) observations per semester.

Students missing more than six classes should drop the course. Please make sure you are aware of the course drop deadline, dropping the class is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Criteria for Grading

1. **Effort** (145 points total, 5 per class for 29 classes): Each day, I will take into consideration your class participation, attitude, attire, and energy. Please be advised that this is *in addition* to the department's attendance policy and you *will not* get any daily points if you are absent.
2. **Midterm Movement Exam** (100 points): This will entail performing the class warm up floor sequence, two (2) center exercises and a movement combination. You will perform these in small groups and I will give you a breakdown of the points before the exam.
3. **Reading responses** (100 points total, 50 points each): Each reading response should be 500-600 words. They are intended to give you the opportunity to flesh out your ideas and opinions about a particular article. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading. I want you to *draw from it* (to let me know you read it) and to relate it to issues that you believe are important/relevant in our class and in your experience as a mover.
4. **Video responses** (50 points total, 25 points each): Each video response should be 350-450 words. As with the reading responses, I **DO NOT** want a summary/narration of the video. I want you to *draw from it* (to let me know you saw it) and share your thoughts and impressions as they relate to your previous and present dance experience and to our class.
5. **Performance Response** (50 points): You are required to attend the dance concert *in-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration* and respond to your experience in a creative/artistic way (see attached guidelines).
6. **Final Creative Dance Project** (100 points): You will work in groups of 3 or 4 to create a 3 to 5-minute dance using a post-modern choreographic process. Guidelines will be handed out with group assignments on October 20th.

Total points possible: 545

A = 90-100% (490-545)

B = 80-89% (436-489)

C = 70-79% (381-435)

D = 60-69% (327-380)

F = 50% and below (326<)

Remember that the number of absences you have can lower your final grade!!!

EXTRA CREDIT: You can get up to 25 points of extra credit by attending extra approved performances and events. Each performance or event will be worth 5 points. In order to get credit, performances need to be pre-approved by the instructor and you have to submit the ticket-stub or program with a 300-word response. **The last day to turn in extra credit is Monday, December 5th.**

Important Dates:

Tuesday 09/13

Guest teacher (instructor out of town)

Thursday 09/15

Guest teacher (instructor out of town)

Video response #1 due by 11:59 PM

Tuesday 09/20

Guest teacher (instructor out of town)

Thursday 09/22

Guest teacher (instructor out of town)

Tuesday 10/04

Reading response #1 due by 11:59 PM

Tuesday 10/18

Midterm movement exam

Thursday 10/20

Final creative dance project groups assigned and guidelines handed out.

Thursday 10/27

Video response #2 due by 11:59 PM

Tuesday 11/8

In class discussion: *in-between*

Performance response due by 11:59 PM.

Tuesday 11/15

In-class group work day (instructor out of town)

Reading response #2 due by 11:59 PM

Thursday 11/17

In-class group work day (instructor out of town)

Tuesday 11/22

In-class group work day (instructor out of town)

Thursday 11/24

THANKSGIVING BREAK **NO CLASS**

Tuesday 11/29

In-class group work day

Thursday 12/1

FINAL: Creative group project performances

Monday 12/05

Final day to turn in extra credit.

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/copy_plag.php

Copyright and Fair Use:

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.

ADA:

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, 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.

Technology Problems:

Technology problems are NOT an excuse for work that is late or missing. Students need to complete assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with technology problems. Contact IT for technological problems and remember that 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.

Performance Response Guidelines

Due date:

Tuesday, November 8th by 11:59 PM

Performance Dates:

In-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration

November 1-4th

at 7:30 PM

November 6th

at 2:30 PM

Location:

Studio Theatre, Fox Fine Arts, UTEP

Tickets:

\$9 - \$14

Box office hours: M-F, 10 AM – 1 PM

915-747-5118

PLEASE KEEP YOUR TICKET STUB TO TURN IN WITH YOUR RESPONSE!

Guidelines:

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. This assignment (worth 50 points) has two parts: a creative response (worth 25 points) and a written explanation/reflection (worth 20 points). The reminder 5 points are awarded for turning in your ticket stub as specified below.

PART I:

For the first part you can be as creative as you want. In the past I have had students create poems, drawings, collages, dances, songs, videos, websites, cakes, sculptures and paintings. The idea is for you to communicate through a medium of your choosing your thoughts, questions, impressions and feelings raised by the dance concert. Every choice (from the medium to the color/font/material, etc. should be purposeful. Everything should have an intention.

The purpose of this part is to engage you in critical thinking in an unconventional way and NOT to judge your artistry or skill. You will NOT be graded in how “good” your piece is, rather on how thoughtful and engaged you were in making it.

Taking pictures and/or videotaping during the performance to use in your response IS NOT ALLOWED. This will automatically give you 0 points for the assignment.

PART II:

Your creative response will be accompanied by a one-page written explanation that should further your reflection of the concert. Please include the following:

- Why you chose the medium for your response

- Explain the content of your creative response in relationship to your experience at the dance concert (e.g. “I chose to use the color red because anger was the dominant emotion I felt throughout the show”).
- Further flesh out thoughts, questions and comments of your experience.

To complete this assignment, you have to upload three items to blackboard **by the due date**:

1. A picture (or short video) of your completed creative response – *PART I*.
2. A picture of your ticket stub with your name written legibly ***in the front*** of it.
3. A one-page written explanation/reflection – *PART II*

Please be prepared to share your thoughts in class.