

## **DANC 2346 – Contemporary II Spring 2017**

TR 10:30 – 11:50 AM

FOX M 201

**Instructor:** S. Paola Lopez R.

**Office:** FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 2:45 PM or by appointment.

**Email:** splopezramirez@utep.edu

*This syllabus is subject to change, I will notify you promptly if and when it does.*

### **Course Description:**

Contemporary Dance is a broad dance style that borrows from various techniques from different time periods and cultures. This class will build upon basic contemporary and modern dance techniques as well as further explorations on post modern dance practices of composition and improvisation at least once every two weeks. Through exercises and combinations (in the center and across the floor), we will work on strengthening the body, increasing flexibility, fostering musicality while enhancing our body awareness and performance presence. Through improvisation and dance-making exercises and assignments, we will make connections between the interpretative and creative aspects of this dance form.

### **Attire:**

This is a studio course and you should expect to be dancing every day you come to class. Wear dance clothes or otherwise comfortable clothing that will allow you to move freely and that will allow me to see your body. Please make sure you are able to be barefoot for class, so if you are wearing tights, they need to be footless or convertible **NO** slippers or shoes. If you are cold, you are allowed to wear socks through the warm up section, but expect to have to take them off. **No zippers or buttons, no baggy clothing, no dangly jewelry, no chewing gum!**

### **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 further develop modern and post-modern dance vocabulary
- √ To identify different music meters
- √ To further expand our conception of aesthetics in dance
- √ To understand the connection between dance-making, improvisation and performance
- √ To learn basic history of this dance form

**Late-work Policy:** I do NOT accept late work. Please plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to turn in assignments on time. If something extraordinary comes up that will prevent you from turning in an assignment (accident, death in the family, severe illness, etc.) you must let me know (if at all possible) **BEFORE the due date** to request an extension.

**Attendance Policy:** You have three (3) absences permitted during the course of the semester without penalty. After that, **your grade will be lowered 1/2 a letter grade for each day missed.** Keep in mind that coming to class late or leaving early will be considered as 1/2 an absence. ***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!**

*NOTE:* In certain circumstances I will allow you to make up absences. If you want to do this, please schedule an appointment with me to discuss it further.

### **Criteria for Grading**

**Effort and attendance** (400 points): You are expected to be mindfully present in each class and engage with the material physically and cognitively (by asking questions, making comments and being curious about our movement explorations). **You need to be in class to get effort points.** Every day I will take into consideration your class participation, attitude, attire, and energy.

**Midterm Exam** (100 points): You will perform in pairs or small groups one of the exercises from our warmup AND a center combination. You will be graded on effort, performance quality, musicality, technique and clarity. **Exam date: March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Reading responses** (50 points total, 25 points each): Each reading response should be 500-600 words. It is intended to give you the opportunity to flesh out your ideas and opinions about a particular topic. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading. I DO want you to ***draw from it*** and to relate it to issues/concepts that you believe are important in our class and in your life. **You will upload your responses via blackboard in a .doc or .docx file ONLY by 11:59 PM on the due date.** **Due dates: February 16<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance Responses** (60 points total, 30 points each): You are required to attend two dance performances: the dance concert *Carnaval de Danzas* and one of two *Koan Ensemble* performances. If you are performing in Carnival, you will need to attend the *knee-jerk* performance instead. For each, you will turn in a 3-part response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for dates and detailed information). **Due dates: February 28<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Video Week** (50 points total, 25 points each): We are going to take a week off of dancing to watch some dance. That week we will not meet in class and you will be assigned two or more videos to watch and come up with a 300-word response **for each video**. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the video. I DO want you to ***draw from it*** and to relate it to issues or concepts that you believe are important in our class and in your life. **You will upload your**

responses via blackboard by 11:59 on the due date in a .doc or .docx file ONLY. **Due date: Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Creative Group Project:** (100 points): You will work with 1 or 2 of your peers in a 3 to 5-minute dance and perform it in front of the class. Groups, guidelines and grading criteria will be handed out on **March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Performances of your projects will be **May 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

Total points possible: 760

A = 90-100% (684-760)

B = 80-89% (608-683)

C = 70-79% (532-607)

D = 60-69% (456-531)

F = 50% and below (455<)

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

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get extra credit by attending additional approved performances and events. Each performance or event will be worth 5 points unless otherwise noted. In order to get credit, performances need to be pre-approved by the instructor and you have to submit the ticket-stub, program or a selfie of you attending the event with a 300-word response. **The last day to turn in extra credit is Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Important Dates:**

Friday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – *Boundless Across Borders* inauguration events  
(volunteer for 10 points of extra credit, attend for 5 points)

Friday 02/10 – *Carnaval de Danzas* opens at the Wise Theatre (runs through 2/19)

Saturday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – *knee-jerk* in performance at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. (Extra Credit)

Tuesday 02/28 – **First performance response due.** In-class discussion and presentations on *Carnaval de Danzas* and *knee-jerk* performance.

Thursday 02/16 – **Reading reflection #1 DUE by 11:59 PM.** Upload your response to blackboard in a .doc or .docx format ONLY.

Thursday 03/02 – Midterm Exam

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Koan* in performance at Star City Studios. Details TBD (Extra Credit)

Tuesday 03/07 – VIDEO WEEK! \*No classroom meeting\*

Thursday 03/9 – VIDEO WEEK! \*No classroom meeting\*

Saturday 03/11 – **Video week responses DUE by 11:59 PM.** Upload your response to blackboard in a .doc or .docx format ONLY.

Tuesday 03/14 – SPRING BREAK **\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

Thursday 03/16 – SPRING BREAK **\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

Tuesday 03/28 – Creative Group Project groups and guidelines handed out

Thursday 04/13 – **Reading reflection #2 DUE by 11:59 PM.** Upload your response to blackboard in a .doc or .docx format ONLY.

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – *Koan* performance. Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall @ 7:30 PM (Extra Credit)

Tuesday 04/25 – **Second performance response due.** In-class discussion and presentations on *Koan Ensemble* performances.

Tuesday 5/2 – Creative Group Project presentations

Thursday 5/4 – Creative Group Project presentations

Monday 5/8 – Last 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](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](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).

**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 information:**

***Carnaval de Danzas (Performance Response 1)***

*\*Only for students NOT performing in Carnaval\**

**Performance Dates:**

February 10, 11, 16, 17, 18  
at 7:30 PM

February 12 and 19  
at 2:30 PM

**Response due date:** Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> (bring your response to class!)

*I highly encourage you to do your creative response as soon as you can after you watch the show!*

**Location:** Wise Family 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!

***knee-jerk performance (Performance Response 1)***

*\*Mandatory for Carnaval performers. Extra credit for everyone else\**

**Performance Dates:**

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM

**Response due date:** Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> (bring your response to class!)

**Location:** Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, UTEP

**Tickets:** TBA

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

***Koan Ensemble performance 1 (Performance Response 2)***

*\*Mandatory one of two. The other one can be used as Extra Credit \**

**Performance Date:** Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:30 PM

**Response due date:** Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (bring your response to class!)

*I highly encourage you to do your creative response as soon as you can after you watch the show!*

**Location:** Star City Studios: 120 W Castellano Dr, El Paso, Texas - (915) 422-3252

**Tickets:** TBA

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

***Koan Ensemble performance 2 (Performance Response 2)***

*\*Mandatory one of two. The other one can be used as Extra Credit \**

**Performance Date:** Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

**Response due date:** Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (bring your response to class!)

*I highly encourage you to do your creative response as soon as you can after you watch the show!*

**Location:** Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, UTEP

**Tickets:** TBA

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

**GUIDELINES FOR ALL PERFORMANCES:**

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. Each assignment (worth 30 points) has three parts: a creative response (worth 15 points), a typed written explanation/reflection (worth 10 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 typed written explanation (no more, no less) 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.
- Even though this is not a ‘formal’ paper, you need to use complete words and share your ideas eloquently.

*PART III:*

Staple your ticket stub to your written response.

**Bring your response to class and be prepared to share and discuss your work!**