

**DANC 2345 – Contemporary I**  
**CRN 16046**  
**Fall 2017**

TR 10:30 – 11:50 AM  
FOX M201

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

**Office:** FOX M 211   **Office Hours:** TR 1:30 – 2:50 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 introduce basic contemporary dance techniques as well as post-modern dance-making and improvisation practices. 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.

**Dress code:**

In order to increase your ease, promote safe movement and aid my ability to make corrections, you are required to wear clothes that 'hug' your body and have bare feet. I need to see your body clearly, specifically your knees, pelvis and spine to instruct proper alignment. Even though you are not required to wear tights and leotards, you DO need to make sure that you comply with the specifications above. I will NOT allow you to take class in baggy or oversized clothes, with dangly jewelry or gum. **This is for YOUR safety.** If you are unsure if what you have to wear is acceptable, please check with me the first week of class.

**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 expand our conception of aesthetics in dance
- √ To understand basic history of this dance form and its socio-political implications

**Criteria for Grading**

**Effort** (200 points total): 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. If you are not present, you can't get effort points.

**Midterm Movement Exam** (100 points total): This will entail performing the class warm up floor sequence, two (2) center exercises and/or a movement combination. You will perform these in small groups and I will give you a breakdown of the points before the exam. Exam date: **October 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading responses (3)** (75 points total, 25 points each): Each reading response should be 500-600 words, typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing. Readings will be available via Blackboard at least two weeks in advance or will be handed out to you in class. This is intended to give you the opportunity to flesh out your ideas and opinions about the reading. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading. I want you to draw from it and to relate it to issues in our class and in your life. *Remember: I DO NOT want a summary of the reading.* Due dates: **September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance Response** (50 points): You are required to attend a dance concert and share a creative response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). Tentative due date: **November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**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 by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Performance date: **December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Total points possible: 525

A = 90-100% (472-525)

B = 80-89% (420-471)

C = 70-79% (367-419)

D = 60-69% (315-366)

F = 50% and below (314<)

**Remember that the number of absences you have may 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, events need to be pre-approved by the instructor and you have to submit a 300-word response with proof of attendance (ticket-stub, program, picture of you attending the event, etc.). The last day to turn in extra credit is **Friday, December 8th.**

**NOTE:** *Even though I will most likely share events throughout the semester that you can attend for extra credit, being proactive and coming up with events, activities and performances to attend or do is your responsibility. If you are at a loss, I am always available to brainstorm ideas with you.*

**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 two (2) 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.

**Important Dates:**

Tuesday 09/19 – **Reading reflection #1 DUE** (Reading available on Blackboard)

Thursday 10/12 – Midterm Movement Exam

Tuesday 10/17 – Instructor out of town. Meet in studio to do assignment

Thursday 10/19 – Instructor out of town. Meet in studio to do assignment

Tuesday 10/24 – **Reading reflection #2 DUE** (Reading assignment handed out on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>)

Thursday 10/26 – Guidelines and group assignments for final project handed out

Thursday 11/16 – **Reading reflection #3 DUE** (Reading available on Blackboard)

Tuesday 11/21 – Performance response \*tentative date\*

Thursday 11/23 – THANKSGIVING BREAK \*\*NO CLASS\*\*

Thursday 12/7 – Final Creative Dance Projects performances

Friday 12/8 – 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 Response Guidelines**

**Due date:** November 21<sup>st</sup> (Date subject to change)

**Performance Date and Location:**

TBD

**Guidelines:**

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. For this assignment, I want you to respond in an unconventional and/or artistic way. You have the following options:

- A poem or script
- A drawing, collage, etc.
- A short dance/movement piece
- A song
- A short video
- A short story
- A website
- A recipe
- If you want to respond in a medium that is not on this list, please talk to me about it before hand.

**DO NOT take pictures and/or videotape during the performance to use in your response. This will give you an automatic 0.**

**Be prepared to discuss your experience and share your work with the class, this will be part of your grade.**