

DANC 2346 – Contemporary II
Spring 2018

TR 10:30 – 11:50 AM

FOX M 201

Instructor: Sandra Paola López Ramírez

Office: FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 1:20 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 release technique as well as further explorations on post modern dance practices of composition and improvisation. Through exercises and combinations (in the center and across the floor), we will work on alignment, strengthening the body, increasing flexibility, fostering musicality and 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.

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, jeans, dresses, with dangly jewelry or chewing 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 improve muscular strength, flexibility, and elasticity
- √ To become aware and improve body alignment
- √ To further the use of gravity for ease of movement
- √ To improve dance presence and performance quality
- √ To further develop modern and contemporary dance vocabulary
- √ 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

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: **March 8th**

Reading/viewing Assignments (2) (100 points total, 50 points each): Each assignment will have one or two articles accompanied with a series of short videos about a particular contemporary technique OR choreographer/dancemaker. Assignments will be available via Blackboard or will be handed out to you in class at least two weeks in advance. This is intended to give you the opportunity to flesh out your ideas and opinions about the material. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the reading or a description of the video. I want you to draw from them and to relate them to issues in our class and in your life. *Remember: I DO NOT want a summary of the reading.* Due dates: **February 13th** and **April 17th** by 11:59 PM.

*** PLEASE NOTE: For your assignments to be accepted by your instructor they should be **2 pages long, typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing and 1 inch margins all around.** They should be turned in via blackboard in a word document or PDF file ONLY. ***

Performance Response (50 points): You are required to attend *Iconic Pop* (the spring dance concert from UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance) and share a creative response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). Due date: **February 20th**

Final Creative Dance Project (100 points): You will work in groups of 3 or 4 to create a 5 to 8-minute site-specific dance through a thorough research process in the selected site. Guidelines will be handed out with group assignments by **March 22nd**. Performance date: **May 1st**

Total points possible: 550

A = 90-100% (495-550)

B = 80-89% (440-494)

C = 70-79% (385-439)

D = 60-69% (330-384)

F = 50% and below (329<)

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!*** Keep in mind that the only absences that are excused are UTEP sponsored events.

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.

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

EXTRA CREDIT: You can get up to 20 points of extra credit by attending extra events or performances sponsored or produced by UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance. You can view our upcoming events here: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/> and I have already included the first two for you in the schedule below.

In order to get credit, you have to sign the sign-up sheet provided **after** each show or event attended **AND** submit the ticket-stub or program to your instructor **by Friday of the week after the show**. For example, if you attend the performance of *transfronteriza* on Tuesday, February 14th, the last day you can turn in your program and get credit will be Friday, February 23rd. Each event or performance is worth 5 points. **Please include your name and class on the ticket or program.**

Important Dates:

Friday 01/19 – Extra credit opportunity: UTEP Technical Theater Workshops special guest talks. FREE

3:15pm-4:15pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre

“Diversity and Inclusion in the Theatre”

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

6:30pm-8:00pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre

“Struggle of Identity and Cultural Relevance in the Arts”

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

Tuesday 2/6 – Instructor out of town. Guest Teacher

Thursday 2/8 – Instructor out of town. **Guest Teacher**

Friday 02/09 – Saturday 02/17 – MANDATORY: *Iconic Pop* at the Wise Theatre. See details for show dates and times in the performance information and response guidelines below.

Tuesday 02/13 – MANDATORY: Reading/viewing Assignment 1 due.

Wednesday 02/14 – Extra credit opportunity: *transfronteriza* at Wise Theater. FREE

7:30pm | at Wise Theatre

transfronteriza is a solo evening-length piece that aims to honor women from the border. It was created with over 200 people from both sides of the U.S. – Mexico border in the sister cities of El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

Concept and Performance: Sandra Paola López R.

Tuesday 02/20 – MANDATORY: Performance response due in class. See guidelines below.

Thursday 03/08 – MANDATORY: Midterm movement exam in class.

Tuesday 03/13 – Spring break ****NO CLASS****

Thursday 03/15 – Spring break ****NO CLASS****

Thursday 03/22 – Creative Group Project groups and guidelines handed out

Tuesday 04/17 – MANDATORY: Reading/viewing Assignment 2 due.

Tuesday 5/1 – MANDATORY: Final Creative Group Project performances

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 Information and Response Guidelines

Due date: Tuesday, February 20th

Performance Dates:

Iconic Pop

February 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17
at 7:30 PM

February 11
at 2:30 PM

Location: Wise Family Theatre (2nd floor), Fox Fine Arts, UTEP

Tickets:

\$9 - \$14

Tickets can be purchased at the ticket center in the Union or at the theater's box office one hour before the show starts.

****REMEMBER****

You need to keep your ticket stub to turn in to your instructor AND sign your name on the sign-up sheet provided by the department at the end of every show.

Guidelines:

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. If you don't know where to start, asking yourself the questions below AFTER you watch the show might be helpful. Please DO NOT take notes during the show as that distracts you from being fully present in the experience.

1. What stayed with you after the show ended?
2. Think about the movement, music, costumes and/or lighting... what drew you?
3. What colors, images, bodies grabbed your attention? (this can be either in a "positive" or "negative" way)
4. How did the experience make you feel?
5. What did you notice?
6. What kind of impact did the environment have on your experience?
7. How did you interpret what you saw?

For the assignment, I want to you respond in an unconventional and/or artistic way. Here are some ideas:

- A poem or script
- A drawing, collage, etc.
- A short dance/movement piece
- A song

- A short video
- A short story
- A website
- A cake or recipe

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

This assignment is worth **50 points** and it will be divided as follows:

Effort and thoughtfulness in your work (20 points): I don't grade you on how "good" the artistic quality of your response is, but I will grade the time and effort you put into it. For example: smudged stick figures drawn in pencil in a ripped notebook page does not show as much effort as a neat drawing or sketch done on a paper board.

Clear connections and thorough exposition (25 points): You will share your work with the rest of the class and will be expected to draw clear connections from your object/response to the dance concert. How do the medium, colors, texture, flavors, images you chose, reflect your experience in the show?

Handing ticket stub (5 points): SAVE your ticket stub and turn it in to me with your name signed in the front.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT **WILL NOT BE GRADED** IF YOUR NAME IS NOT IN THE SIGN-UP SHEET THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES AT THE END OF EVERY SHOW.