

DANC 2346 – Contemporary II Spring 2016

TR 10:30 – 11:50 AM

FOX M 201

Instructor: S. Paola Lopez R.

Office: FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 2:30 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. Through exercises and combinations (in the center and across the floor), we will work on 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.

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 contemporary dance vocabulary
- ✓ To understand and 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

Assignments:

- Readings: There will be 2 readings throughout the semester that you will need to respond to in writing. The readings will be uploaded to blackboard at least a week in advance. These will be due: **Feb 25th** and **April 21st**
- Performance Response: You are required to attend the dance concert *Firebird and My Mozart* and respond to your experience (see attached for guidelines). Response due: **Feb 23rd**
- Midterm: You will have a movement midterm on **March 3rd**
- Video responses: You will be assigned to watch a modern/contemporary dance video (or playlist) and turn in a 300-word response. We will not meet during class time during video days: **March 15th** and **April 7th**
- Creative group project: In small groups, you will make a 3-5 minute dance and perform it for the class. Your group and guidelines for the assignment will be handed out on **March 31st** and you will present on **May 5th**

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

1. **Effort** (200 points): Every day I will take into consideration your class participation, attitude, attire, and energy.
2. **Midterm** (50 points): You will perform in pairs the class combination we have been working on the weeks prior. You will be graded on effort, performance quality, musicality, technique and clarity.
3. **Reading responses** (40 points total, 20 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.
4. **Performance Response** (30 points): You are required to attend the Theatre and Dance Department's concert *Firebird and My Mozart*, do a creative response and present it in class. (Please see attached for guidelines and dates).
5. **Video responses** (30 points total, 15 points each): After watching the video assigned, you should turn in a 300-word response. I **DO NOT** want a summary of the video. 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.
6. **Creative Group Project:** (50 points): You will work with 1 or 2 of your peers in a 3-5 minute dance and perform it in front of the class. Groups, guidelines and grading criteria will be handed out on March 31st.

Total points possible: 400

A = 90-100% (360-400)

B = 80-89% (320-359)

C = 70-79% (280-319)

D = 60-69% (240-279)

F = 50% and below (239<)

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

EXTRA CREDIT: You can get unlimited extra credit by attending as many extra performances you want. 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, May 9th.**

Important Dates:

Friday 02/12 – *Firebird and My Mozart* opens at the Wise Theatre

Sunday 02/21 – Last performance of *Firebird and My Mozart*

Tuesday 02/23 – Performance response due. In-class discussion and presentations on *Firebird and My Mozart*.

Thursday 02/25 – Reading reflection #1 DUE by 11:59 PM

Thursday 03/03 – Midterm

Tuesday 03/08 – SPRING BREAK ****NO CLASS****

Thursday 03/10 – SPRING BREAK ****NO CLASS****

Tuesday 03/15 – ****NO CLASS**** Video day #1 response DUE by 11:59 PM

Thursday 03/31 – Creative Group Project groups and guidelines handed out

Tuesday 04/05 – ****NO CLASS**** Creative Group Project meeting and discussion

Thursday 04/07 – ****NO CLASS**** Video day #2 response DUE by 11:59 PM

Tuesday 04/12 – Creative Group Project proposal due

Thursday 04/21 – Reading reflection #2 DUE by 11:59 PM
In-class Creative Group Project work-day

Tuesday 5/3 – In-class Creative Group Project work-day

Thursday 5/5 – Creative Group Project presentations

Monday 5/9 – 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

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 Information

Due date: Tuesday, February 23rd

Performance Dates:

Firebird and My Mozart

February 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20
at 7:30 PM

February 14 and 21
at 2:30 PM

Location: Wise Family Theatre, Fox Fine Arts, UTEP

Tickets:

\$9 - \$14

Box office hours: M-F, 10 AM – 1 PM

915-747-5118

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 to you 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
- 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.

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