

**DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation**  
**CRN 15543**  
**Fall 2018**

TR 1:30 – 2:50 PM

College of Business Admin 302 and Magoffin Auditorium

**Instructor:** Sandra **Paola** López Ramírez

**Office:** FOX M211 **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:**

This is a survey course which uses a series of readings, lectures, videos, discussions and movement workshops to investigate who dances (i.e. who gets to dance) and why, and how, when and where dance happens. We will explore this through the lens of social and popular dance and look at the socio-political implications of movement on and off the stage. We will be learning how dance is interweaved with politics, economics, class, race and gender.

**Class format:**

There will be a total of eight 3-day sections in this class, most of them made up of the following components: lecture, video day, and movement practicum. Lectures and video days will be held in the College of Business Admin building, room 302, and practicum sessions will be held at Magoffin Auditorium. **Since your syllabus is subject to change, check blackboard often for the most updated version to know where we are meeting.**

*Lectures/Discussions:* These are meant to help you understand better the readings from your book and to expand our understanding on the topics through group discussion.

*Video days:* These classes will be spent watching videos and furthering the discussion while breaking down the dance(s) we read and talked about.

*Movement practicums:* To learn about dance, and if we are to indeed gain an appreciation for the form, we need to practice it. Each section will have a movement practicum where we will practice the dances we are learning about. Please keep in mind that **you will need to be in comfortable clothes to move freely and safely in (i.e. workout clothes and comfortable closed-toe shoes).** Students' grades will not be affected by their proficiency in movement practicums, but *it will be affected based on participation and effort.*

**Textbook:**

*Ballroom, Boogie, Shimmy Sham, Shake: A Social and Popular Dance Reader.* Ed. Julie Malnig

Most of your readings will come from this text but *might* be supplemented by other articles that I will make available to you via Blackboard.

### Course Objectives:

- √ To look at dance in many forms and locations in order to begin a critical examination of the form in varied contexts
- √ Embody different dance styles and use that information to further the critical exploration of dance theory and history
- √ Address key topics and terminology for learning about dance cultures
- √ Understand how the broader social, cultural, historical and political contexts shape dance and vice versa
- √ Relate and apply the theoretical and embodied knowledge of the class to our own experience as movers and human beings

**Late-work Policy:** I do NOT accept late work. Please plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to turn in assignments by the due date. 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 date is due** 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. A sign in sheet will be passed each class to take attendance. **Be advised that the only absences that are excused are UTEP sponsored events.**

***Students missing more than seven 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 extreme 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

**Quizzes (40 points, 5 points each):** Every lecture day you will have a quiz on the article assigned. Quizzes are administered through blackboard and will be up at least one week in advance. They are **due by 1:30 PM on each lecture day** (please see schedule below for specific dates). If you miss the deadline for a quiz, you won't be allowed to make-up the points.

**Video reflection (30 points):** During the week of September 24<sup>th</sup> we will watch two documentaries on a dance culture, style or choreographer. You will choose the documentary that interested you the most and write a short reflection following the guidelines at the end of this syllabus. **Due date: October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### Performance Responses (60 points, 30 points each):

You must see a minimum of two productions produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the UTEP Dinner Theatre; if there is a Dance Production that **MUST** be ONE of

your productions. All extra shows, including the Dinner Theatre, or the greater El Paso/Juarez community will be counted as extra credit.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL REQUIRED SHOWS AND EXTRA CREDIT SHOWS AT UTEP:**

You are **required** to sign an attendance sheet at the end of the performance you attend. If you do not sign this sheet at the end of the performance **you will not get credit for attendance, your paper will not be accepted, and you will receive a 0 for the assignment.** The house manager will have the sign out sheet available at the end of each performance.

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual right to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.

**Due Dates: October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Please see guidelines at the end of this syllabus for more information\*\***

**Midterm Exam (100 points):** This exam will cover everything we read, watch, discuss and practice in the first half of the semester. Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available **October 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exam (100 points):** This exam will be mostly non-comprehensive, and it will focus on readings, discussions, videos and practicums during the second half of the semester. Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available **December 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Total possible points: 330

A= 100-90% (330-297)

B= 89-80% (296-264)

C= 79-70% (263-231)

D= 69-60% (230-198)

F= 59% and below (197 <)

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

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get up to 25 points of extra credit by attending extra events or performances that relate to our subject matter. Each extra credit event is 5 points unless otherwise noted. **To get credit you MUST do the following:**

- Get prior approval from your instructor or TA on the event you want to attend.
- Turn in proof of attendance (e.g. ticket stub, program, picture, signed slip)

- If the event is from the UTEP Department of Theater and Dance, sign the sheet at the end of the event.
- Turn in all proof of extra credit **before December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### **\*\*Encouraged Extra Credit Events\*\***

**African Drumming and Dance Class (10 points):** You are encouraged to attend the African Drumming and Dance class at Onawa Wellness: 801 N Piedras St, El Paso, TX 79903. Classes are Sunday from 1-4 pm (drumming class is 1-2:30; dance class 2:30 – 4:00 pm). If you want all 10 points of extra credit you **MUST** attend both classes. You can attend only one of the classes for 5 points of extra credit. Please keep in mind that you need proof of attendance **for each class**.

**Tigua Social Dances (10 points):** You are encouraged to attend the Tigua Social Dances at the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. They have performances open to the public on Saturday and Sundays at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. For more information on the venue visit: <http://www.ysletadelsurpueblo.org/tourism-hospitality/cultural-center/social-dances>

### **Tentative Class Schedule**

Tuesday 8/28

Course Introduction, going over syllabus and class format

Thursday 8/30

Practicum: Body awareness

Tuesday 9/4

**Reading DUE:** *Introduction*, by Julie Malnig (pg. 1-13)

**Quiz 1 DUE** by the beginning of class

Thursday 9/6

Video day

Tuesday 9/11

**Reading DUE:** *Our National Poetry: The Afro-Chesapeake Inventions of American Dance*, by Jurretta Jordan Heckscher (pg. 19)

**Quiz 2 DUE** by the beginning of class

Thursday 9/13

Practicum: African diaspora

Tuesday 9/18

Video day

Thursday 9/20 \*\* No Class\*\*

Tuesday 9/25

Documentary: TBD

Thursday 9/27

Documentary: TBD

Tuesday 10/2

**Reading DUE:** *The Civilizing of America's Ballrooms: The Revolutionary War to 1890*, by Elizabeth Aldrich (pg. 36)

**Quiz 3 DUE** by the beginning of class

**DUE:** Documentary reflection

**Wednesday 10/3 – Sunday 10/14— MANDATORY (Option 1 of 2): *Bless Me, Ultima*** at the Wise Theatre. See details at the end of the syllabus.

Thursday 10/4

Practicum: Waltz

Tuesday 10/9

Video day

Thursday 10/11 – MIDTERM ONLINE \*\*NO IN CLASS MEETING\*\*

Available on Blackboard from 12:00 am on 10/11 until 11:59 pm on 10/14

**Friday 10/12 – Sunday 10/28— MANDATORY (Option 2 of 2): *Young Frankenstein*** at the Dinner Theater. See details at the end of the syllabus.

Tuesday 10/16

**Reading DUE:** *Rumba Then and Now*, by Yvonne Daniel (pg. 146)

**Quiz 4 DUE** by the beginning of class

Thursday 10/18

Practicum: Rumba

Tuesday 10/23

Video day

**DUE:** Performance reflection on *Bless Me, Ultima* OR *Young Frankenstein*

Thursday 10/25

**Reading DUE:** *Rocking Around the Clock: Teenage Dance Fads from 1955-1965*, by Tim Wall (pg. 182)

**Quiz 5 DUE** by the beginning of class

Tuesday 10/30  
Video Day

Thursday 11/1  
Practicum: Swing

**Friday 11/1 – Sunday 11/4 – MANDATORY: *University Dance Company Show*** at the Wise Theatre. See details at the end of the syllabus.

Tuesday 11/6  
**Reading DUE:** *Embodying Music, Disciplining Dance: The Mambo Body in Havana and New York City*, by David F. García (pg. 165)  
**Quiz 6 DUE** by the beginning of class

Thursday 11/8  
Practicum: Mambo/Salsa

Tuesday 11/13  
Video day

Thursday 11/15  
**DUE:** Performance response for University Dance Company show. Be prepared to discuss your experience during class.

Tuesday 11/20  
**Reading DUE:** *Beyond the Hustle: 1970s Social Dancing, Discotheque Culture, and the Emergence of the Contemporary Club Dancer* by Tim Lawrence (pg. 199)  
**Quiz 7 DUE** by the beginning of class

Thursday 11/22 – NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

Tuesday 11/27  
Video day

Thursday 11/29  
**Reading DUE:** *The Dance Archaeology of Rennie Harris: Hip-Hop or Postmodern?* by Halifu Osumare (pg. 261)  
**Quiz 8 DUE** by the beginning of class

Tuesday 12/4  
Video day

Thursday 12/6  
Practicum: Making dances

Finals week

**Final Exam ONLINE**

Available on Blackboard from 12:00 am on 12/7 until 11:59 pm on 12/13

**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.

## Documentary Response Guidelines

In class, you will watch two dance documentaries on the week of September 24<sup>th</sup>. You will select one of them and write a **2-page** reflection responding to the questions below. Respond the questions **thoughtfully and thoroughly** in at least 2 paragraphs each. (each question is worth 10 points for a total of 30 for the response):

1. **What** did you find interesting or surprising about this documentary and **why** did that particular fact or piece of information grab your attention?
2. **What** connections can you make between the material you learned and your previous knowledge about movement and/or dance?
3. **How** does this documentary impact, change or enhance your understanding of dance and its role in society?

Your responses need to be **typed** in 12 pt. font with one-inch margins all around, printed and handed out to your teaching assistant **at the beginning of class on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

## Performance Information

### Due dates:

*Bless Me, Ultima* OR *Young Frankenstein*: Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

*University Dance Company*: Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

### Tickets:

**\*\*REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR TICKET STUB!!!\*\* You'll be required to staple it to your reflection paper.**

For *Bless Me, Ultima* and University Dance Company:

Adults: \$18

UTEP students & children: \$12

Military, Non-UTEP Students, Alumni, Seniors, Groups (10+): \$15

EXCEPT WHERE NOTED BELOW

For *Young Frankenstein* see link below.

### Performance dates:

*Bless Me, Ultima*

Oct. 3\*, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 @ 7:30p.m.

Oct. 7 & 14 @ 2:00p.m.

\*\$10 ALL TICKETS

*Young Frankenstein* (Dinner Theater)

Dinner Performances (7:00 P.M.)

**October 12, 13, 17\*, 18\*, 19, 20, 24\*, 25\*, 26, 2018 (\*Discount Dinner Performance)**

Matinee Dinner Performance (1:30 P.M.)

**October 14, 2018\* (Meal Served / \*Discount Dinner Performance)**

No Dinner Matinee Performances (2:30 P.M.) General Admission Seating

**October 21, 28, 2018 (No Meal Served)**

For Dinner Theater ticket price and information visit:

<https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/udt/tickets/index.html>

**MANDATORY\*\*University Dance Company\*\*MANDATORY**

November 1\*, 2, 3 @ 7:30p.m.

November 4 @ 2:30p.m.

\*\$10 ALL TICKETS

## Performance Response Guidelines

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the performances you watch. For each assignment, you will write a 2-page reflection.

Follow the questions below as a guideline as you write. Please AVOID taking 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, images and/or lighting... what drew you? Why? **Please go beyond "likes" and "dislikes"**
3. How did the performance make you feel? How come?
4. How did this performance change or impact your understanding of theater or dance? Why?
5. **For dance shows:** Compare the first and last pieces. How were the four main elements of dance discussed in class (body, space, time, energy) used in each one? **Be thorough and specific.**
6. **For theater shows:** How was dance (broadly speaking) present in this performance? What role did it play? In your experience, how did it enhance or detract from the show?

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

- **REMEMBER** to keep your ticket stub and staple it to your response.
- **REMEMBER** to sign your name on the sign-up sheet provided by the house manager at the end of every show.
- Reflection papers should be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font (or similar) with 1 inch margins all around. If you fail to follow this format, you will have points deducted.