

**DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation (ONLINE)**  
**CRNs 14824 and 18049**  
**Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** S. Paola López Ramírez

**Email:** [splopezramirez@utep.edu](mailto:splopezramirez@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** Held on Zoom by appointment.

**Course Description:**

This is a survey course which uses a series of readings, lectures, videos and discussions 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 and how that impacts the perception and embodiment of a dance in a particular time and place.

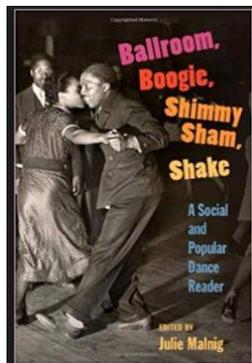
The course consists of 8 modules, each one looking at a social dance and its development—mainly in the U.S. Each module will consist of a reading assignment from our textbook, a quiz, two or more mini-lectures highlighting important concepts from the reading or adding contextual information, a video response and a movement assignment. In addition to that, you will have 4 group discussion boards, 2 exams and a performance response. Modules are expected to be completed in 1.5 weeks representing about 8-10 hours of work.

**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.

**Required Materials:**

*Ballroom, Boogie, Shimmy Sham, Shake: A Social and Popular Dance Reader.* Ed. Julie Malmig (2009). ISBN-10: 9780252075650



Regular access to a computer or smart device with video camera, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

### **Criteria for Grading**

**Quizzes (45 points, 5 points each):** For each module you will have a quiz on the reading assigned and they must be completed by the end of the first day of the module. You will also have a quiz on the class syllabus which will be due the first week of class. See breakdown of deadlines below or on our course map for specific dates.

**Video responses (80 points, 10 points each):** Each module will have a series of videos illustrating the dance(s) that we are investigating. The assignment will consist of responding to pointed questions about the physical structuring of the dance and the context in which it is happening. See breakdown of deadlines below or on our course map for specific dates.

### **Movement assignments (160, 20 points each):**

I believe that a physical practice is necessary in any dance class. Therefore, for each module you will have short instructional videos or prompts for you to practice at home. Depending on the assignment, you will need to respond with either a short journal entry or by attaching a short video (1-minute max.) of your practice. Please read carefully the instructions on each blackboard assignment to know how to respond. See breakdown of deadlines below or on our course map for specific dates.

To get all the points available in these assignments, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Always use music when you are dancing. I should see you dancing to music in the video, please do not add music in the editing process.
- Edit your video to show me your best work.
- Only videotape yourself doing the “final product” of the lesson, be it a combination, dance or sequence of dance movements.
- Keep videos under 1-minute in length.
- Make sure I see your ENTIRE body the ENTIRE length of the video.
- Unless otherwise noted, you must learn and demonstrate ALL dance steps in the instructional video(s).

### **Discussion boards (120, 30 points each):**

Because this is an online course, your participation in discussion boards is paramount. Throughout the semester, you will have four (4) discussions due each consisting of two parts. You are required to post a **250 to 300-word** response to the prompt I offer and then, respond to 2 of your peers in **100 to 150 words** a few days later. See breakdown of deadlines below on our course map for specific dates.

**Performance response (50 points):**

You are required to watch ONE of the following dance performances online and write a thorough analysis of what you saw:

MOVE/ment by Cleo Parker Robinson

<https://vimeo.com/441616855>

UpRooted; Pero Replantado by Donald McKale

<https://vimeo.com/436846683>

Wind Rose by Jody Sperling

<https://vimeo.com/385192311>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Detailed instructions on this assignment are available on blackboard. **DUE on November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Peer Assessment (20 points):** You will grade two of your peers' responses to the dance performance. A rubric will be provided in blackboard for you to assign grades. BOTH assessments will become available after 11:59 PM MT on November 20<sup>th</sup> and they are due by 11:59 PM MT on **November 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Exam #1 (100 points):** This exam will cover everything we read, watch, discuss and practice in the first half of the semester (Modules 1-4). The exam will not have a time limit and will be available starting October 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 am and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Exam #2 (100 points):** This exam will cover everything we read, watch, discuss and practice in the second half of the semester (Modules 5-8). The exam will not have a time limit and will be available starting November 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 am MT and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Total possible points: 675

A= 100-90% (675-607)

B= 89-80% (606-540)

C= 79-70% (539-472)

D= 69-60% (471-405)

F= 59% and below (404 <)

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get up to 25 points of extra credit by viewing extra performances. You can watch from the performance response list above or pick ones on the following vimeo channel:

<https://vimeo.com/abronsartsctr>

Each performance you view is 5 extra points unless otherwise noted. To get credit you must send me a document with ALL the following information:

1. Name of the performance
2. Name of the choreographer and/or performance group
3. Date and location where the performance took place
4. The video's URL
5. Date and time you viewed the performance
6. 300 to 350-word response to the performance

Send your document as a **PDF or .docx file** to my email: [splopezramirez@utep.edu](mailto:splopezramirez@utep.edu) no later than **11:59 PM on December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Other extra credit activities may arise throughout the semester. When and if they do, I will notify you via blackboard.

### **Notes for being successful in this course:**

- *Follow Instructions:* There are thorough instructions for each assignment including content and formatting. FOLLOW THEM. You will get points taken off or given a 0 if you fail to do so. Something is not clear? Ask!
- *Written Assignments:* Please make sure you are detailed whenever you write for this class. The more information you give me to demonstrate your understanding of a question or concept, the more points I can give you. I won't make assumptions about what you write. All your answers MUST be clearly stated.
- *Assignment Submissions:* You are responsible for making sure your assignments go through and upload properly to blackboard by the due date. ALWAYS go back and double check that your submission went through. Making sure that your work is saved and turned in properly is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. If you are experiencing technical difficulties contact UTEP's helpdesk or Blackboard Help.
- *Announcements:* Since this is an online course, announcements are the main form of communication that I have with you as a class. Check them often and read them thoroughly. If there are any specifications, changes or alterations to assignments, dates or anything else regarding the class, they will be posted. You are responsible for the information shared there.
- *Assignment Feedback:* I will post general feedback for each assignment in at least the first 2 modules to give you all an idea of where most students are losing points. If you want more specific details on your submission, please email me your detailed questions at [splopezramirez@utep.edu](mailto:splopezramirez@utep.edu) with your name and class CRN. If you prefer to set up a video call with me, send me an email to schedule it.
- *If you have questions:* ASK! The best way to get a hold of me is via email (please don't use blackboard to send me a message). Unless I announce otherwise, I should be able to get back to you within 48 hours. If you haven't heard from me after 72 hours from sending me a message, email me again. When emailing me a question, please make sure you follow these guidelines:

- First, make sure that you have read thoroughly your syllabus and the instructions for the assignment, announcement, or assessment you have a question about. Minimize the probability of asking something that is clearly stated somewhere.
- If you don't find your answer by reading, formulate the question with as much detail as you can: What assignment do you have a question about (including what kind and from what module), what is unclear to you in the instructions, and how I can help you.
- ALWAYS include your full name and the title and CRN of the class you are taking.

**Netiquette:**

- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading all postings.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face to face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

**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. Please see course calendar below and our course map for a list of deadlines.

**Attendance Policy:**

Because this is an online course, attendance is determined by class participation in online discussions. Students must be prepared to participate in online individual/group discussions and complete the course modules in order to understand and incorporate the information into their assignments and exams. Participation is worth 20% of the final grade.

**Technology Requirements:**

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web. You may use any of the primary Web browsers—Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc. When having technical difficulties, try switching to another browser.

You will need to have or have access to a computer/laptop, printer, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to purchase a USB (flash drive). You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe, Flashplayer, Windows Media

Player, QuickTime, and Java. You will also need access to video editing software such as iMovie. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If you encounter technical difficulties of any kind, contact the Help Desk at <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

## Course Calendar

### PLEASE NOTE:

- All due dates are in Mountain Time (MT), keep in mind that the time will change from MDT to MST on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- All assignments and assessments **will go offline by 11:59 PM MT** the day they are **DUE**. You **WILL NOT** be able to complete them after that time.
- You can also refer to the Course Map document on our course page to see this information in a table format.

### WEEK 1 (August 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>)

Syllabus and class format

Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 pm MT on **August 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Module #1, What is Dance?*

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

Quiz #1 due by 11:59 pm MT on **August 28<sup>th</sup>**

### WEEK 2 (August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 6<sup>th</sup>)

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Response to discussion board prompt #1 by 11:59 pm MT on **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Movement assignment #1 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 4<sup>th</sup>**

Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on **September 5<sup>th</sup>**

### WEEK 3 (September 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>)

*Module 2, African Roots and the Creolization of Social Dance in the U.S.*

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

Quiz #2 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 11<sup>th</sup>**

### WEEK 4 (September 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)

Movement assignment #2 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Module 3, Social Dances from Europe in the 1800s U.S.*

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

Quiz #3 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **WEEK 5 (September 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Response to discussion board prompt #2 by 11:59 pm MT on **Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Movement assignment #3 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on **September 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### **WEEK 6 (September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>)**

*Module 4, Rock n' Roll and Race in the U.S.*

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

Quiz #4 due by 11:59 pm MT on **September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **WEEK 7 (October 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Movement assignment #4 due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam #1** opens at 12:00 am October 6<sup>th</sup> and it's due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **WEEK 8 (October 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>)**

*Module 5, Cuban Rumba*

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

Quiz #5 due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Response to discussion board prompt by 11:59 pm MT on **October 16<sup>th</sup>**

#### **WEEK 9 (October 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>)**

Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Response to peers on discussion board #3 by 11:59 pm MT on **October 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Module 6, The Development of Mambo*

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 11:59 pm MT on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**WEEK 10 (October 26<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>)**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on **October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**WEEK 11 (November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)***Module 7, Dance in Music Videos*

Reading DUE: *From Busby Berkeley to Madonna: Music Video and Popular Dance*, by Sherril Dodds (pg. 247)

Quiz #7 due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Response to discussion board prompt by 11:59 pm MT on **November 6<sup>th</sup>**

**WEEK 12 (November 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
 Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Module 8, Postmodern Dance and Hip-Hop*

Reading DUE: *The Dance Archeology of Rennie Harris: Hip-Hop or Postmodern?* by Halifu Osumare (pg. 261)

Quiz #8 due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**WEEK 13 (November 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Live dance performance response due by 11:59 pm MT on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**WEEK 14 (November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>)**

Peer assessments due by 11:59 pm MDT on **November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup>****WEEK 15 (November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Review Exam #2

*Exam #2* opens at 12:00 am on November 30<sup>th</sup> and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Extra Credit DUE on **December 4<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM MT.**

**IMPORTANT Statements Regarding UTEP COVID-19 Precautions:**

- 1) You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu). If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).
- 2) For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.
- 3) Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

**Student Responsibilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

- Complete self-screening ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to every campus visit.
- Complete COVID-19 student training at [this site](#).
- Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
- If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible, request an accommodation from [Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

**Accommodations Policy:**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as

amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

**Scholastic Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**Student Resources:**

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.