DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation (ONLINE)
CRN 29313
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Held on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra 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 interwoven 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 live 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:

Regular access to a computer (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. 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.
- For partner dances you are encouraged to learn them with someone else. If you send your video dancing with another person, you will get 5 points of extra credit.
- 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 discussions due each consisting of two parts. You are required to post a 150-300 word response to the prompt I offer and then, respond to 2 of your peers in 50-100 words a few days later. See breakdown of deadlines below on our course map for specific dates.

Live dance performance response (50 points):
You are required to watch a live dance performance at some point in the semester and write a thorough analysis of what you saw using the *Elements of Dance* and the *Context Questions for Viewing Dance* (both will be introduced during Module #1). When selecting the dance performance please keep the following criteria in mind:

- **It needs to be a professional or pre-professional performance:** The word “professional” can often be misleading so let me attempt to describe what I mean: I don’t necessarily mean that the performance you attend needs to be by dancers with a degree or by a professional touring company, but rather, the performers need to have a significant level of mastery in their style and/or be immersed in the cultural experience of the dance they are performing. The category of pre-professional dance is high-quality dance from younger dancers. College level and/or private dance conservatories are good examples of these.

- **You need to submit proof of attendance:** If the performance you attend had tickets or a program, scan them with your name on it and upload it with your response. If the event is free, you can include a photo of YOU at the venue during or after the event depending of what is appropriate.

- **You CANNOT be a performer in the show you write about:** It is very important that you do this assignment from an audience perspective so you can put into practice what we have been learning in the course.

Good options for this assignment could be:
- College or university performances (If you are in El Paso, you can check UTEP’s Theater and Dance Department for shows this semester)
- Professional dance shows or installations (e.g. dance companies, Broadway musicals, independent artists)
- Performances by community groups at cultural events

**Please keep in mind** that your response **will not** be accepted unless you follow the criteria. If you are unsure about whether a performance will be accepted, please email me the information and ask! Response is due by 11:59 PM MT on **April 24th**.

**PLEASE NOTE** if you need an accommodation for this assignment, contact me ASAP for an alternative.

**Peer Assessment (20 points):** You will grade two of your peers’ responses to the live dance performance. Use the *Elements of Dance* and the *Context Questions for Viewing Dance* to assign grades. BOTH assessments will become available after 11:59 PM MT on April 24th and they are due by 11:59 PM MT on **May 1st**.

**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 March 5th at 12:00 am and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on March 8th.

**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 May 7th at 12:00 am and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on May 10th.

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

- **Follow Instructions:** There are thorough instructions for each assignment, from content to format. 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 only give feedback when you lose points in an assignment. Keep in mind that since this is a large class, what I write will be short and to the point. If you want more information about why you lost points, please don’t hesitate to ask me for more!
- **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. If you have 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.
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 attending extra events or performances that relate to our subject matter. These can be dance performances, dance classes, music concerts that are related to dances we’ve studied, and cultural events that include dance (e.g. an Indian festival). Each extra credit event is 5 points unless otherwise noted. **To get credit you MUST do the following:**

- Get prior approval from your instructor on the event you want to attend.
- Turn in proof of attendance (e.g. ticket stub, program, picture, signed slip)
- Turn in all proof of extra credit by 11:59 PM MT on May 8th.

**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 MST to MDT on March 8th.
• 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 (January 21st – January 26th)

Syllabus and class format
Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 pm MT on January 23rd

Module #1, What is Dance?
Reading DUE: Introduction, by Julie Malnig (pg. 1-13)
Quiz #1 due by 11:59 pm MT on January 25th

WEEK 2 (January 27th – February 2nd)

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on January 27th
Response to discussion board prompt #1 by 11:59 pm MT on January 29th
Movement assignment #1 due by 11:59 pm MT on January 31st
Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on February 1st

WEEK 3 (February 3rd – February 9th)

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 **February 3rd**
Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **February 7th**

**WEEK 4 (February 10th – February 16th)**

Movement assignment #2 due by 11:59 pm MT on **February 10th**

*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 **February 11th**
Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **February 14th**

**WEEK 5 (February 17th – February 23rd)**

Response to discussion board prompt #2 by 11:59 pm MT on **February 18th**
Movement assignment #3 due by 11:59 pm MT on **February 20th**
Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on **February 21st**

**WEEK 6 (February 24th – March 1st)**

*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 **February 24th**
Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **February 28th**

**WEEK 7 (March 2nd – March 8th)**

Movement assignment #4 due by 11:59 pm MT on **March 2nd**

**Exam #1** opens at 12:00 am March 5th and it’s due by 11:59 pm MT on **March 8th**.

**WEEK 8 (March 9th – March 15th)**

*Module 5, Cuban Rumba*
Reading DUE: *Rumba Then and Now*, by Yvonne Daniel (pg. 146)
Quiz #5 due by 11:59 pm MT on **March 9th**
Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on **March 12th**
Response to discussion board prompt by 11:59 pm MT on **March 13th**

**SPRING BREAK: March 16th – March 22nd**

**WEEK 9 (March 23rd – March 29th)**
Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on March 23rd
Response to peers on discussion board #3 by 11:59 pm MT on March 23rd

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 March 25th

WEEK 10 (March 30th – April 5th)

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on March 31st
Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on April 3rd

WEEK 11 (April 6th – April 12th)

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 April 6th
Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on April 10th
Response to discussion board prompt by 11:59 pm MT on April 10th

WEEK 12 (April 13th – April 19th)

Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on April 13th
Response to peers on discussion board by 11:59 pm MT on April 13th

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 April 14th

WEEK 13 (April 20th – April 26th)

Video response due by 11:59 pm MT on April 20th
Movement assignment due by 11:59 pm MT on April 21st

Live dance performance response due by 11:59 pm MT on April 24th

WEEK 14 (April 27th – May 3rd)

Peer assessments due by 11:59 pm MDT on May 1st

WEEK 15 (May 4th – May 10th)

Review Exam #2
Exam #2 opens at 12:00 am on May 7th and it is due by 11:59 pm MT on May 10th.

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 one’s 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.