

## DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation

### Spring 2017

MW 1:30 – 2:50 PM

FOX D 180 (W) and Magoffin Auditorium (M)

**Instructor:** S. Paola Lopez R.

**Office:** FOX M 211   **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 2:45 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, 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, race and gender issues.

This is a lecture class with a practicum component at least once every two weeks. Generally, lecture sessions will take place on Mondays and will meet in FOXD 180, and practicum sessions will be held on Wednesdays at Magoffin Auditorium. **You will need to be in comfortable clothes that you can move in freely for practicum sessions (i.e. workout clothes and comfortable closed-toe shoes).** Students will not be graded on how well they perform in movement sessions, but *they will be graded on participation. It is extremely important for you not to miss the practicum sessions, as this is physical work and thus, you can't make it up.*

### 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 on Blackboard (note that these are not on the tentative schedule yet. I might choose new articles based on how the class evolves).

### Course Objectives:

- √ To look at dance in many forms and locations in order to begin a critical examination of the art 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 on time. If something extraordinary comes up that will

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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

**Effort** (200 points): You are expected to actively participate in class! Every day I will take into consideration your class participation, attitude and engagement. You gain participation points by asking questions in class, engaging in discussions, commenting on lectures and being engaged in practicums. You can also gain points by emailing me thoughts or questions that arise from our class.

**Quizzes** (55 points, 5 points each): Most weeks you will be required to read one article, most of them found on your textbook. Every week that you have an article assigned, you will have a quiz on blackboard **due by 1:30 PM on Monday**. If you miss the deadline for a quiz, **you won't be allowed to make-up the points.**

**Performance Response** (50 points): You are required to attend the dance concert *Carnaval de Danzas* and turn in a 3-part response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). **Due: Monday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Individual meeting with instructor** (20 points): Half way through the semester you will have a scheduled time slot during our class time to come and meet with me. We will discuss your progress in class, participation, attendance and midterm exam. **Meetings will be scheduled on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Midterm** (100 points): This exam will cover everything we read, discuss and practice in the first half of the semester. **Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available March 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

**Final** (100 points): This exam will be mostly non-comprehensive, it will focus on readings, discussions and practicums during the second half of the semester. If there is something from the first half of the semester that I want to test you again on, we will go over it during the exam review. **Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available May 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

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Total possible points: 525

A= 100-90% (525-472)

B= 89-80% (471-420)

C= 79-70% (419-367)

D= 69-60% (366-315)

F= 59% and below (314 <)

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

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get extra credit by attending additional approved performances and events. Each performance or event will be worth 5 points unless otherwise noted. In order to get credit, performances need to be pre-approved by the instructor and you have to submit the ticket-stub, program or a selfie of you attending the event with a 300-word response. **The last day to turn in extra credit is Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### Tentative Class Schedule

Wednesday 1/18 – MEET AT FOX D180

Course Introduction, going over syllabus and class format

Monday 1/23 – Defining dance and appreciation. How can we look and talk about dance critically?

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

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

Wednesday 1/25 – Meet at Magoffin Auditorium

**Practicum:** Body Awareness

Friday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – *Boundless Across Borders* inauguration events  
(volunteer for 10 points of extra credit, attend for 5 points)

Monday 1/30 – Early social dance in the US

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

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

Wednesday 2/1

**Practicum:** Waltz

Monday 2/6 – Social class and dance entertainment

**Reading DUE:** *Reality Dance: American Dance Marathons*, by Carol Martin (pg. 93)

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

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Wednesday 2/8

**Practicum:** Foxtrot

February 10 – 19<sup>th</sup> *Carnaval de Danzas*, performance at the Wise Theatre. **\*\*Mandatory Activity\*\***

Monday 2/13 – Race, music and dance.

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

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

Wednesday 2/15

**Practicum:** Swing

Monday 2/20 – Cultural appropriation and commercialization of Rumba (and other dances)

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

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

Wednesday 2/22

**Practicum:** Rumba

Saturday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – *knee-jerk* in performance at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. (Extra Credit)

Monday 2/27 – Critical discussion of *Carnaval de Danzas*

**Due:** Performance response. Bring your 3-part response to class and be prepared to share and discuss your experience at the concert.

Wednesday 3/1 – Meet at FOXD 180

**Review for Midterm Exam**

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Koan* in performance at Star City Studios. Details TBD (Extra Credit)

Monday 3/6 \*NOT MEETING AT CLASSROOM\*

**Midterm Exam ONLINE (available 3/5 – 3/11)**

Wednesday 3/8 \*NOT MEETING AT CLASSROOM\*

**Midterm Exam ONLINE (available 3/5 – 3/11)**

Monday 3/13 **\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

Wednesday 3/15 **\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*NO CLASS\*\***

Monday 3/20 – Individual meetings with instructor at FOXD 180

Your individual time slot will be emailed to you.

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Wednesday 3/22– Individual meetings with instructor at FOXD 180  
Your individual time slot will be emailed to you.

Monday 3/27 – Racialization of African-based dances

**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

Wednesday 3/29

**Practicum:** Salsa/Mambo

Monday 4/3 – History, styles and music in Argentine Tango

**Reading DUE:** *Understanding Tango* Excerpt from the book *The Meaning of Tango* by Christine Denniston (Available on Blackboard)

**Quiz 7 DUE** by the beginning of class

Wednesday 4/5

**Practicum:** Tango

Monday 4/10 – Pop music and popular dance

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

**Quiz 8 DUE** by the beginning of class

Wednesday 4/12

**Practicum:** Jazz (pop music)

Monday 4/17 –How do political acts influence the development of dance?

**Reading DUE:** *Beyond the Hustle: 1970s Social Dancing, Discotheque Culture, and the Emergence of the Contemporary Club Dancer* by Tim Lawrence (pg. 199)

**Quiz 9 DUE** by the beginning of class

Wednesday 4/19

**Practicum:** Tap

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – *Koan* performance. Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall @ 7:30 PM (Extra Credit)

Monday 4/24 – Postmodern dance and its parallels to African principles in dance

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

**Quiz 10 DUE** by the beginning of class

Wednesday 4/26

**Practicum:** Postmodern dance-making

Monday 5/1 – DanceSport and the theatricalizing of social dances

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**Reading DUE:** *Dancing Latin/Latin Dancing: Salsa and DanceSport* by Juliet McMains (pg. 302)

**Quiz 11 DUE** by the beginning of class

Wednesday 5/3

**Review for Final Exam**

Finals week

**Final Exam ONLINE (available 5/5 – 5/11)**

Monday 5/8 – 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](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

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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 Guidelines**

**Due date:**

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> by class time (bring your response to class!)

**Performance Dates:**

*Carnaval de Danzas*

February 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

at 7:30 PM

February 12 and 19

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

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR TICKET STUB TO TURN IN WITH YOUR RESPONSE!**

**Guidelines:**

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. This assignment (worth 50 points) has three parts: a creative response (worth 25 points), a typed written explanation/reflection (worth 20 points). The reminder 5 points are awarded for turning in your ticket stub as specified below.

*PART I:*

For the first part you can be as creative as you want. In the past I have had students create poems, drawings, collages, dances, songs, videos, websites, cakes, sculptures and paintings. The idea is for you to communicate through a medium of your choosing your thoughts, questions, impressions and feelings raised by the dance concert. Every choice (from the medium to the color/font/material, etc. should be purposeful. Everything should have an intention.

The purpose of this part is to engage you in critical thinking in an unconventional way and NOT to judge your artistry or skill. You will NOT be graded in how “good” your piece is, rather on how thoughtful and engaged you were in making it.

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**Taking pictures and/or videotaping during the performance to use in your response IS NOT ALLOWED. This will automatically give you 0 points for the assignment.**

### *PART II:*

Your creative response will be accompanied by a one-page typed written explanation (no more, no less) that should further your reflection of the concert. Please include the following:

- Why you chose the medium for your response
- Explain the content of your creative response in relationship to your experience at the dance concert (e.g. “I chose to use the color red because anger was the dominant emotion I felt throughout the show”).
- Further flesh out thoughts, questions and comments of your experience.
- Even though this is not a ‘formal’ paper, you need to use complete words and share your ideas eloquently.

### *PART III:*

Staple your ticket stub to your written response.

**Bring your response to class and be prepared to share and discuss your work!**