

Fall 2016

MW 3:00 – 4:20 PM

Quinn Hall 203 (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 Wednesdays and will meet in Quinn Hall 203, and practicum sessions will be held on Mondays at Magoffin Auditorium. **You will need to be in comfortable clothes that you can move in freely for practicum sessions (i.e. workout clothes).** 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 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.

Assignments:

- *First Assignment:* Type a 300-350 word description of your physical experience. **Due Wednesday, August 24th**
- *Quizzes:* **You will have a quiz due for every reading.** Quizzes will be administered online through blackboard and will be **due by 3:00 PM on Wednesdays.**
- *Performance Response:* You are required to attend *in-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration* and respond to your experience (see attached for guidelines). Response due: **Wednesday, November 9th**
- *Midterm exam:* **October 12th.** Exam will be administered online through blackboard only during class time.
- *Final exam:* **Finals week - time and day TBA.** Exam will be administered online through blackboard only during the class' assigned final time.
- *Short Essay:* Your essay will have 3 possible deadlines: with 10 points of extra credit, **due Monday, Oct 3rd by 11:59 PM.** With 5 points of extra credit, **due Wednesday, Nov 2nd by 11:59 PM.** Final due date (**NO extra credit**) **Friday, Dec 2nd by 11:59 PM.** Late essays **will not** be accepted (see attached for guidelines).

Criteria for Grading

Effort (200 points): Every day I will take into consideration your class participation, attitude and engagement. This include having proper attire for practicums.

First Assignment (15 points): Type a 300-350 word description of your physical experience, print it and bring it to class. Start by thinking about the following questions: What distinguishes your experience of body and motion? (How do you move around? Do you do sports, martial arts, play music, read, hike, knit?) How is your body and movement experience in family and religious rituals? What gestures and postures form part of your social and work life?

Quizzes (50 points, 5 points each): Most weeks you will be required to read one (or two articles), most of them will come from your textbook. If another one is assigned it will be posted to blackboard the week before. If you miss class, or arrive to class after the quiz has been administered, **you won't be allowed to make-up the points.**

Performance Response (50 points): You are required to attend the dance concert *in-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration* and respond to your experience in a creative/artistic way (see attached guidelines).

Midterm exam (100 points): This exam will cover everything we read, discuss and practice in the first half of the semester.

Final exam (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.

Short Essay (80 points): In a 2-page essay, you will respond to one (1) essay question provided by the instructor. Late essays **will not** be accepted (see attached for guidelines and deadlines).

Total possible points: 595

A= 100-90% (535-595)

B= 89-80% (476-534)

C= 79-70% (416-475)

D= 69-60% (357-415)

F= 59% and below (356 <)

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

EXTRA CREDIT: You can get up to 25 points of extra credit by attending extra approved performances and events. Each performance or event will be worth 5 points. 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, December 5th.**

Tentative Class Schedule

Monday 8/22 – MEET AT QUINN HALL 203

Course Introduction, going over syllabus and class format

Wednesday 8/24

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

Quiz 1 DUE by the beginning of class

First Assignment DUE. Be prepared to discuss your response in class.

Monday 8/29 – Meet at Magoffin Auditorium

Practicum: Waltz

Wednesday 8/31

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

DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation

Class Section: 002

Monday 9/5

LABOR DAY – No Class

Wednesday 9/7

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

Quiz 3 DUE by the beginning of class

Monday 9/12

Practicum: Swing

Wednesday 9/14 – TBA

Monday 9/19

Class at the Library room 204B

The library's resources, the research process and how to avoid plagiarism

Wednesday 9/21

Class at the Library room 204B

One-on-one support on your research for the essay questions.

Monday 9/26 – TBA

Wednesday 9/28

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

Monday 10/3

DUE date 1 for Short Essay (10 points of extra credit!)

Practicum: Rumba

Wednesday 10/5

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

Quiz 5 DUE by the beginning of class

Monday 10/10

Review for Midterm Exam

Wednesday 10/12

Midterm Exam ONLINE

Monday 10/17

Practicum: Salsa/Mambo

Wednesday 10/19

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

Monday 10/24

Practicum: Tango

Wednesday 10/26

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

Monday 10/31

Practicum: Jazz

Wednesday 11/2

DUE date 2 for Short Essay (5 points of extra credit!)

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

Monday 11/7

Practicum: Tap

Wednesday 11/9

Performance Response DUE by 11:59 PM

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

Monday 11/14

Practicum: Bachata

Wednesday 11/16 - TBA

Monday 11/21 - TBA

Wednesday 11/23

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

Monday 11/28

Practicum: Postmodern dance-making

Wednesday 11/30

Review for Final Exam

Friday 12/2

Final DUE date for Short Essay (NO extra credit)

Last day to turn in Extra Credit

Finals week

Final Exam ONLINE.

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.

Guidelines for Short Essay

You will choose one (1) of the topics suggested to research and answer the question below in a two-page essay. The question should be thoroughly researched and your essay should reflect both acquired knowledge and your opinion on the topic. The essay should:

- Be typed, **no less** than 1.75 pages and **no more** than 2 pages in length
- Include **at least** 3 sources, 2 of them peer reviewed.
- Include a works cited page (this page is **in addition** to the 2-page requirement)
- Be single spaced
- Have 1-inch margins all around
- Have 12-point Times New Roman font
- Follow MLA format for citations

Prompt:

Artists have a record of being agents of change in our world. They introduce us to new ways of seeing/thinking/feeling, and have proved indispensable to shift the status quo throughout the history of human kind. In a time when our world is going through major crises involving forced mass migration, environmental catastrophes, severe economic and social inequality and rampant armed conflict, just to name a few, the role of the arts in facilitating much needed change cannot be overstated. How is dance as a performing art being used around the world to bring about social change? What role is dance playing in the current state of affairs around the globe? Choose **only one** of the following topics to focus your answer on in your essay:

1. Environment
2. Armed Conflict
3. Forced Migration
4. Gender Equality
5. Education
6. Race relations

Breakdown of points (80 points possible):

- 10 pts** - Proper format
- 15 pts** - Sources
- 20 pts** - Grammar and sentence structure
- 35 pts** - Content (clear ideas and in depth connections between research material and personal reflection.)

Performance Response Guidelines

Due date:

Wednesday, November 9th by 11:59 PM

Performance Dates:

In-between: A Dance Concert Reflecting on Immigration

November 1-4th

at 7:30 PM

November 6th

at 2:30 PM

Location:

Studio 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 two parts: a creative response (worth 25 points) and a 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.

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 written explanation 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.

To complete this assignment, you have to upload three items to blackboard **by the due date**:

1. A picture (or short video) of your completed creative response – *PART I*.
2. A picture of your ticket stub with your name written legibly ***in the front*** of it.
3. A one-page written explanation/reflection – *PART II*