

DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation
CRN 16401
Fall 2017

TR 12:00 – 1:20 PM

LART 209 (T) and Magoffin Auditorium (R) unless otherwise notified

Instructor: S. Paola Lopez R.

Office: FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 1:30 – 2:50 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 Tuesdays and will meet in LART 209, and practicum sessions will be held on Thursdays at Magoffin Auditorium. **You will need to be in comfortable clothes that you can move in freely and safely 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 via Blackboard (note that these are not on the tentative schedule yet. If I choose further readings, I will do so 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. In certain circumstances, I'll give students a 10-minute grace period without penalty. Please talk to me AHEAD OF TIME if you need this accommodation.

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

Writing Reflections (200 points, 100 points each): I am very interested in hearing about how the class is impacting you and your understanding of dance, art and the world at large. These reflections can be on any topic that we have discussed or touched on that has in some way impacted you. These are not formal papers, but opportunities for you to deeply engage with the issues that are coming up for you in class. Reflections should be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing. **Due dates: September 28th and November 30th**

Quizzes (60 points, 5 points each): Most weeks you will be required to read one article from our textbook. Every week that you have an article assigned, you will have a quiz on blackboard **due by 12:00 PM on Tuesday**. 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 a dance concert and share a creative response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). **Tentative due date: November 21st**

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 **10/15 - 10/22**.

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. Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available **12/8 - 12/15**.

Total possible points: 510

A= 100-90% (510-459)

B= 89-80% (458-408)

C= 79-70% (407-357)

D= 69-60% (356-306)

F= 59% and below (305 <)

Remember that the number of absences you have may 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, events need to be pre-approved by the instructor and you have to submit a 300-word response with proof of attendance (ticket-stub, program, picture of you attending the event, etc.). The last day to turn in extra credit is **Friday, December 8th.**

***NOTE:** Even though I will most likely share events throughout the semester that you can attend for extra credit, being proactive and coming up with events, activities and performances to attend or do is your responsibility. If you are at a loss, I am always available to brainstorm ideas with you.*

Tentative Class Schedule

Tuesday 8/29 – Meet at LART 209

Course Introduction, going over syllabus and class format

Thursday 8/31 – Meet at Magoffin Auditorium

Practicum: Body awareness

Tuesday 9/5

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

Quiz 1 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 9/7

Practicum: Partnership

Tuesday 9/12

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 9/14

Practicum: Physicality of the African diaspora

Tuesday 9/19

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

Thursday 9/21

Practicum: Waltz

Tuesday 9/26

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

Quiz 4 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 9/28

Practicum: Foxtrot

Writing Reflection #1 DUE

Tuesday 10/3

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

Thursday 10/5

Practicum: Swing

Tuesday 10/10

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

Quiz 6 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 10/12 – Meet at LART 209

Review Midterm Exam

Tuesday 10/17 ***NOT MEETING AT CLASSROOM***

Midterm Exam ONLINE (available 10/15 – 10/22)

Thursday 10/19 ***NOT MEETING AT CLASSROOM***

Midterm Exam ONLINE (available 10/15 – 10/22)

Tuesday 10/24

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

Quiz 7 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 10/26

Practicum: Rumba

Tuesday 10/31

Reading DUE: *Embodying Music, Disciplining Dance: The Mambo Body in Havana and New York City*, by David F. García (pg. 165)

Quiz 8 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 11/2

Practicum: Salsa/Mambo

Tuesday 11/7

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

Quiz 9 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 11/9

Practicum: Tango

Tuesday 11/14

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

Thursday 11/16

Practicum: Postmodern dance-making

Tuesday 11/21

Dance performance discussion

Thursday 11/23 ***THANKSGIVING BREAK *NO CLASS***

Tuesday 11/28

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

Quiz 11 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 11/30

Practicum: Theatricalizing social dances (Latin dance)

Writing Reflection #2 DUE

Tuesday 12/5

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

Quiz 12 DUE by the beginning of class

Thursday 12/7- Meet at LART 209

Review for Final Exam

Friday 12/8

Last day to turn in Extra Credit

Finals week

Final Exam ONLINE (available 12/8 – 12/15)

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:

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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.

Performance Response Guidelines

Due date: November 21st (Date subject to change)

Performance Date and Location:

TBD

Guidelines:

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. For this assignment, I want you to respond in an unconventional and/or artistic way. You have the following options:

- A poem or script
- A drawing, collage, etc.
- A short dance/movement piece
- A song
- A short video
- A short story
- A website
- A recipe
- If you want to respond in a medium that is not on this list, please talk to me about it before hand.

DO NOT take pictures and/or videotape during the performance to use in your response. This will give you an automatic 0.

Be prepared to discuss your experience and share your work with the class, this will be part of your grade.