

**DANC 1304 – Dance Appreciation**  
**CRN 24020**  
**Spring 2018**

TR 1:30 – 2:50 PM

PSYC Bldg. 308 and Magoffin Auditorium

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

**Office:** FOX M 211 **Office Hours:** TR 12:00 – 1:20 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, videos, 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.

**Class format:**

There will be a total of nine 3-day sections in this class, each made up of the following components: lecture, movement practicum and video day. Lectures and video days will be held in the Psychology Building room 308 and practicum sessions will be held at Magoffin Auditorium.

*Lectures:* These are meant to help you understand better the readings from your book and to expand your knowledge of the topic at hand. Due to the size of this class, you will be divided into 3 smaller groups to aid class discussions. For each lecture class, there will be an assigned “**hot seat**” group who will be in charge of participating by asking/answering questions and creating the class discussion for the day. The other two groups are expected to take notes and will be required to hand in a written reflection the last day of the section.

*Movement practicums and video days:* For the practicums and video days the class will be divided in half. Half of the group will be in a movement practicum in the auditorium, while the second half will be watching videos in the classroom. Please keep in mind that **you will need to be in comfortable clothes that you can move freely and safely in 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 and effort*.

On the first day of class, you will be assigned a letter and a number, for example: A3. The letter (A or B) will correspond to your practicum/video groups. The number (1, 2 or 3) will correspond to the “hot seat” groups.

**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.

### **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. A sign in sheet will be passed each class to take attendance. **Be advised that the only absences that are excused are UTEP sponsored events.**

***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**

**Participation (100 points):** Every section that you are assigned to the “hot seat” group you are expected to participate actively in all 3 components (lecture, practicum and video day) and you should expect to be called on by your instructor or teaching assistant to answer questions. Points are awarded based on the quality and thoughtfulness of your interventions in class (not necessarily the quantity) and your preparedness when you answer questions.

**Written Responses (90 points, 15 each):** Every section you are not in the “hot seat” group (6 total), you will be required to turn in a written response to the material in that section. 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 are not formal papers,

but opportunities for you to deeply engage with the issues that are coming up for you in class. Please follow the guidelines at the end of this syllabus and check due dates for your group on the schedule.

**Quizzes (45 points, 5 points each):** Every lecture day you will have an article assigned and you will have a quiz on blackboard **due by 12:00 PM**. 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 *Iconic Pop* (the spring dance concert from UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance) and share a creative response reflecting your experience (see guidelines at the end of syllabus for detailed information). Due date: **February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Midterm Exam (100 points):** This exam will cover everything we read, watch, 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 Exam (100 points):** This exam will be mostly non-comprehensive, and it will focus on readings, discussions, videos and practicums during the second half of the semester. Exam will be administered through blackboard and will be available **May 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Total possible points: 485

A= 100-90% (485-436)

B= 89-80% (435-388)

C= 79-70% (387-339)

D= 69-60% (338-291)

F= 59% and below (290 <)

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

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You can get up to 20 points of extra credit by attending extra events or performances sponsored or produced by UTEP's Department of Theater and Dance. You can view our upcoming events here: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events/> and I have already included the first two for you in the schedule below.

In order to get credit, you have to sign the sign-up sheet provided **after** each show or event attended **AND** submit the ticket-stub or program to your instructor **by Friday of the week after the show**. For example, if you attend the performance of *transfronteriza* on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the last day you can turn in your program to get credit will be Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each event or performance is worth 5 points. **Please include your name and class on the ticket or program.**

### Tentative Class Schedule

Tuesday 1/16 - Course Introduction, going over syllabus and class format

Group assignments sent by email before this day

Thursday 1/18 – Section 1 (**Hot seat:** group 1)

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

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

**Friday 1/19 – Extra credit opportunity:** UTEP Technical Theater Workshops special guest talks. FREE

**3:15pm-4:15pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre**

*“Diversity and Inclusion in the Theatre”*

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

**6:30pm-8:00pm | UTTW at Wise Theatre**

*“Struggle of Identity and Cultural Relevance in the Arts”*

Key Note Speaker: Gabriel Barrera

Tuesday 1/23

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

Thursday 1/25

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

**Written Response due:** Groups 2 and 3

Tuesday 1/30 – Section 2 (**Hot seat:** group 2)

**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

Thursday 2/1

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

Tuesday 2/6

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

**Written Response due:** Groups 1 and 3

Thursday 2/8 – Section 3 (**Hot seat:** group 3)

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

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

**Friday 02/09 – Saturday 02/17 – MANDATORY: *Iconic Pop*** at the Wise Theatre. See details for show dates and times in the performance information and response guidelines below.

Tuesday 2/13

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

**Wednesday 02/14 – Extra credit opportunity: *transfronteriza*** at Wise Theater. FREE

**7:30pm| at Wise Theatre**

*transfronteriza* is a solo evening-length piece that aims to honor women from the border. It was created with over 200 people from both sides of the U.S. – Mexico border in the sister cities of El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

Concept and Performance: Sandra Paola López R.

Thursday 2/15

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

**Written Response DUE:** Groups 1 and 2

Tuesday 2/20 – *Iconic Pop* discussion and presentations

**Performance Response DUE**

Thursday 2/22 – Section 4 (**Hot seat:** group 1)

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

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

Tuesday 2/27

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

Thursday 3/1

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

**Written Response due:** Groups 2 and 3

*Midterm study guide handed out*

Tuesday 3/6 – NO CLASS MEETING

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

Thursday 3/8 – Section 5 (**Hot seat:** group 2)

**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

Tuesday 3/13 **\*Spring Break \* NO CLASS\***

Thursday 3/15 **\*Spring Break \* NO CLASS\***

Tuesday 3/20

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

Thursday 3/22

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

**Written Response due:** Groups 1 and 3

Tuesday 3/27– Section 6 (**Hot seat:** group 3)

**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

Thursday 3/29

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

Tuesday 4/3

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

**Written Response due:** Groups 1 and 2

Thursday 4/5 – Section 7 (**Hot seat:** group 1)

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

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

Tuesday 4/10

Practicum: group A

Video: group B

Thursday 4/12

Practicum: group B

Video: group A

**Written Response due:** Groups 2 and 3

Tuesday 4/17 – Section 8 (**Hot seat:** group 2)

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

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

Thursday 4/19

Practicum: group B  
Video: group A

Tuesday 4/24

Practicum: group A  
Video: group B

**Written Response due:** Groups 1 and 3

Thursday 4/26 – Section 9 (**Hot seat:** group 3)

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

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

Tuesday 5/1

Practicum: group A  
Video: group B

Thursday 5/3

Practicum: group B  
Video: group A

**Written Response due:** Groups 1 and 2

*Final study guide handed out*

Finals week

**Final Exam ONLINE (available 5/4 – 5/10)**

### **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 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.



## Written Response Guidelines

You have 6 written responses due throughout the semester. Your due dates are on the class schedule above and will depend on your assigned group number. All responses are due **at the beginning of class** on the due date.

**Group 1** will turn in written responses for sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9

**Group 2** will turn in written responses for sections 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9

**Group 3** will turn in written responses for sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8

When writing your responses, please respond the following questions **thoughtfully and thoroughly** (each question is worth 5 points for a total of 15 for each response):

1. **What** did you find interesting or surprising about this section and **why** did that particular fact or piece of information grab your attention?
2. **What** connections can you make between the material you learned and your previous knowledge about movement and/or dance? **What** connections can you make with other sections we have studied in this class?
3. **How** does this section impact, change or enhance your understanding of dance and its role in society?

**Each question should be answered in 1-2 full paragraphs.** Your responses need to be **typed** in 12 pt. font with one inch margins all around, printed and handed out to your teaching assistant at the beginning of class.

## Performance Information and Response Guidelines

**Due date:** Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

**Performance Dates:**

*Iconic Pop*

February 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

at 7:30 PM

February 11

at 2:30 PM

**Location:** Wise Family Theatre (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Fox Fine Arts, UTEP

**Tickets:**

\$9 - \$14

Tickets can be purchased at the ticket center in the Union or at the theater's box office one hour before the show starts.

**\*\*REMEMBER\*\***

**You need to keep your ticket stub to turn in to your instructor AND sign your name on the sign-up sheet provided by the department at the end of every show.**

**Guidelines:**

It is very important for me that you take the time to interpret and respond **thoughtfully** to the dance concerts you watch. If you don't know where to start, asking yourself the questions below AFTER you watch the show might be helpful. Please DO NOT take notes during the show as that distracts you from being fully present in the experience.

1. What stayed with you after the show ended?
2. Think about the movement, music, costumes and/or lighting... what drew you?
3. What colors, images, bodies grabbed your attention? (this can be either in a "positive" or "negative" way)
4. How did the experience make you feel?
5. What did you notice?
6. What kind of impact did the environment have on your experience?
7. How did you interpret what you saw?

For the assignment, I want to you respond in an unconventional and/or artistic way. Here are some ideas:

- A poem or script
- A drawing, collage, etc.
- A short dance/movement piece
- A song
- A short video

- A short story
- A website
- A cake or recipe

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

This assignment is worth **50 points** and it will be divided as follows:

**Effort and thoughtfulness in your work (20 points):** I don't grade you on how "good" the artistic quality of your response is, but I will grade the time and effort you put into it. For example: smudged stick figures drawn in pencil in a ripped notebook page does not show as much effort as a neat drawing or sketch done on a paper board.

**Clear connections and thorough exposition (25 points):** You will share your work with the rest of the class and will be expected to draw clear connections from your object/response to the dance concert. How do the medium, colors, texture, flavors, images you chose, reflect your experience in the show?

**Handing ticket stub (5 points):** SAVE your ticket stub and turn it in to me with your name signed in the front.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT **WILL NOT BE GRADED** IF YOUR NAME IS NOT IN THE SIGN-UP SHEET THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES AT THE END OF EVERY SHOW.