INSTRUCTOR: VALERIA Y. GONZALEZ

Meeting Times: M, T, W, TH
10:30AM - 11:50AM (Via Zoom)

Email: vyangonzalez2@utep.edu

Cellphone: (917) 929-8057

Office hours: M, W
12:00PM-3:00PM

*other office hours and meetings available upon request.

Course Content:

This class will provide the dancers with a variety of contemporary dance techniques, and an introduction to dance theater through a structure of exercises, movement phrase material, choreography, improvisational methods and weekly discussions. The instructor will offer diverse methodologies for dance on camera in multiple settings to enhance the virtual learning experience/process. In addition, this course aims to allow the students to think, and speak critically about contemporary dance. Every week the dancers will be challenged with new questions to research and to be curious about- they will be encouraged to discuss them in the group.

Course Objectives:

● To strengthen and enhance the dancers technique.
● To understand the correct body alignment in contemporary dance.

● To develop modern and contemporary dance vocabulary.

● To create and articulate their own artistic statement or manifesto.

● To explore new improvisational methods.

● To engage in new ways of thinking, moving and relating to the body and the space.

● To learn and retain movement phrase material.

● To gain a deeper insight into the contemporary dance world.

● To research and learn about new choreographers and their work.

● To be inspired and created a manifesto or artistic statement.

**Requirements:**

● A new journal for this class. My class is process oriented, and I highly encourage my students to write down their thoughts, ideas and memories from each day so they can revisit this information later in the semester- or later in life.

● Attendance is crucial for the process. I care about you showing up to class more than anything. Communication is key. If you are dealing with a complex situation please communicate with me and we will figure it out.

● My class is a phone-free environment (including i-watch): Please refrain from using cell phones unless the professor requests you to complete an activity on one of these devices during the class period.

● Bring your bottle of water. (suggested)

● I suggest wearing comfortable clothing layers.

● Assignments are due every Monday.

● A whatsapp group will be made specifically for this class. - I highly suggest you are part of it.

**Attendance, and Punctuality:**
This class requires a significant amount of commitment to the process. Therefore, your attendance and punctuality are crucial. You are entitled to 10 absences. The 9th and 10th absences result in the lowering of the overall course grade by ½ letter. At the 11th absence, the student fails the course regardless of course average. (See Absence Policy in detail below.)

Grading:

60% Attendance and live discussions—Be fully present and active in the process.
10% Manifesto or Artistic Statement.
*Draft due on 10/19 and Final on 11/30*
15% Weekly Blackboard Assignments.
**Due every Monday.**
15% Papers on choreographers (2)
*First paper due on 10/5 and the Second on 11/9*

Extra points- TBA

Notes:

- All rights regarding this syllabus, items and dates are susceptible to change by the creator/instructor.
- Because of the nature of this class, subjects like race, gender, identity and other will come up throughout the semester.

### FALL 2020 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates: Week 1: Aug 24-28 Week 2 Aug 31 –</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Assignment + Due Date (Placed the week before they are due.)</th>
<th>Additional Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Aug 24-28 Week 2 Aug 31 –</td>
<td>Intro</td>
<td>Assignment for 9/7: Research two manifestos or two artistic statements and write down on the discussion board why</td>
<td>Week of August 31: Town Hall meeting: 3:00-4:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>dates, etc.</td>
<td>you chose them. (you can add the link and then comment below.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Discuss: Choreographers papers.</td>
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<td>· Discuss: What is a Manifesto and an Artistic Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Movement material.</td>
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<td>Week 3:</td>
<td>Introduce movement material + new introduction phrase.</td>
<td>Assignment for 9/14: Look up videos in youtube of Ohad Naharin discussing what Gaga Movement Language is. Post in the discussion board your thoughts and curiosities.</td>
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<td>Sept 7-11</td>
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<td>- If you already saw Gaga, please share your thoughts with more specific language that you have already learned in the past. Example: Tama, Pika, Moons, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Technique class.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Create movement that introduces yourself.</td>
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<td>· Discuss: gravity + floating.</td>
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<td>Week 4:</td>
<td>Alignment + Balance</td>
<td>Assignment for 9/21: Choose your two choreographers for your papers. Then upload on Blackboard (Two short paragraphs) describing why you chose them.</td>
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<td>Sept 14-18</td>
<td>· Movement phrase material.</td>
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<td>· Technique Class.</td>
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<td>· Discuss: correct alignment vs. wrong alignment.</td>
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<td>Week 5:</td>
<td>BODY: folding parts.</td>
<td>Assignment due September 28th: Research Improvisation Technologies by Choreographer William</td>
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<td>Sept 21-25</td>
<td>- Distinguish bones, flesh, muscles, articulations,</td>
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| Week 6: Sept 28-Oct 2 | Adagio + engines of the body:  
- Repeat movement phrase material + learn adagio.  
  - Discuss the weight of the body/ weight of the bones.  
  - Repeat movement phrase material.  
  - Recognize other engines in the body.  
**Discuss:** time and geometry.  
  - Only through time we compute action. | Forsythe.  
- Post on the discussion board your discoveries.  
- Be specific about his language and method. | Assignment: 1st choreographer paper **due on 10/5.** |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| **Week 7: Oct 5-9** | **Composition / Adapting the space**  
- Movement phrase material.  
- Composition.  
- Discussions on choreographers.  
**Discuss:** space and dynamics.  
**SPACE:** Pathways, directions and dimension.  
**DYNAMICS.** | **Assignment due October 12:** Check out Sidra Bell work and her MODULE sessions. (for week 8)  
- In the Discussion board write down your discoveries.  
- What language does she use? | **Assignment due 10/19:** Upload on blackboard your 1st draft of your Manifesto or Artistic Statement to Blackboard. (for week 9) |
| **Week 8: Oct 12-16** | | | **October 10th: Texas Improvisation Festival**  
**Extra points**  
- Reflection paper. (3-4 pages)  
- Tab will be open in Blackboard until the end of October.  
**Town Hall Meeting:**  
3:00pm-4:30pm |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9: Oct 19-23</th>
<th><strong>Discuss:</strong> Relationships, Relating to self, space, props and others.</th>
<th>TBA</th>
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| Week 10: Oct 26-30 | **Discuss:** Decentralizing the body.  
                    - Break, dismantle, disassemble, disjoint | TBA |
| Week 11: Nov 2-6   | **Deconstructing Ballet forms Geometry**  
                    · Choreography.  
                    · Explore different movement qualities.  
                    · Explore “The mechanics of the spine.”  
                    · Discussion: Architecture in the body. | **Assignment due on 11/9:** Paper #2 on choreographer on 11/9. |
| Week 12: Nov 9-13  | **Discuss three conditions of energy:** tension, relaxation, and release. | **Assignment due November 16th:** Choose a monologue you are interested in. Valeria will also give you a list of examples. |
| Week 13: Nov 16-20 | **Discuss:** Inside out.  
                    - How do you view the world?  
                    - What is your statement?  
                    - Your individuality. | TBA |
<p>|                    | <strong>Town Hall Meeting:</strong> 3:00-4:30pm |     |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 14: Nov 23-27</th>
<th>No class - Thanksgiving</th>
<th>Assignment due on 11/30; Final Manifesto, or Artistic Statement due on 11/30.</th>
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</table>
| Week 15: Nov 30-Dec 4 | **Text and Dance: The effects**  
Voice exercises  
Workshop text and movement. | **Assignment due on December 7th:** Come prepared to practice your monologue. |
| Week 16: December 7-11 | **Journal presentations** | :) |

**Weekly ZOOM classes:**

1. 10:35-10:45 Check ins.

2. 10:45-11:50 class
   - Even though we have a specific calendar, class might slightly change each time. MINUS the assignments. The assignments stay the same throughout the semester.
   - Some days we will NOT have check ins, and we will go directly into technique. We will focus on different aspects of contemporary dance technique: alignment, breathing, core, strength, feet, turn out, turn in, cardio, floating, jumps, floor, etc. It will depend each day.
   - Some days we will have long meditation+mindfulness+writing sessions to help you deepen your writing process for your manifestos and artistic statements.
   - I will be taking some pauses during the virtual class to observe you and give you corrections, either in the moment, or I will write them down and then send them individually to you.
   - I will 95% of the time record the class. FYI if you have any concern with this please let me know. This video WON'T be published via social media or in any other media outlet. They will be specifically there for us
to possibly observe, and for myself to be able to give you corrections.
- There will be some classes where we will observe the same video (I will share my screen.) and then we will have a moment at the end of the class to discuss what we observed and how it relates to our class.
- Please make sure you don't have any distractions during my class, and please mute your mic- unless I indicate the contrary.

**Choreographer Essays:**

I will give you a list of choreographers for you to view, and you will choose 2 to do a 3-4 page essay on them. (Times new roman, double spaced, 12) The list of choreographers will be sent out the first week of class.

**The Artistic Statement:**

The question “How do you relate to the world as an artist?” “What is your dance like?”, “Who are you?” Is the thrust of your work dramatic? Abstract? Does it find ancestry in a particular dance style? Do you feel a cultural or ethnic connection in the work? Which social or ethical issues are meaningful to you, and could they pertain to your statement?

**The Manifesto:**

“A personal manifesto is a declaration of your core values and beliefs, what you stand for, and how you intend to live your life. It functions both as a statement of principles and as a call to action. A personal manifesto can serve as all of the following.”

https://daringtolivefully.com/personal-manifesto

**Community Yoga Classes:** Every Tuesday 5-6 pm HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!

**Desert Dance:** I encourage all dance major students to join Desert Dance. The interim President is Kaelin Walker. Please reach out to her for more information: desertdanceutep@gmail.com

**UTEP COVID-19 Policies + Student responsibilities (for face to face meetings.)**

- Complete self-screening (screening.utep.edu) prior to every campus visit.
· Complete COVID-19 student training at this site.
· Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
· If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible, request an accommodation from Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

When in the studio:

· Class will be dismissed by rows or sections to avoid bottlenecks at the exits.
· There will be specific procedures for leaving and re-entering the classroom during the class so all attendees know what to expect regarding student movement in the classroom (e.g., not lingering close to another individual while moving through the classroom).
· Wear a face covering at all times.
· Maintain 6 feet of separation at all times, including when talking with other students.
· Follow signage indicating specific entry and exit doors and pathways.
· Do not cluster in groups and keep hallways open.
· Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering the classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch face until after hands are washed/sanitized.
· Use an alcohol wipe, provided outside of classrooms, to sanitize the desk, chair, or table.
· Follow faculty protocols for leaving and re-entering the classroom.

Lab/Studio Guidelines

· Leave doors open to promote airflow if feasible, unless advised not to do so by Environmental Health and Safety.
· Clear the room of non-essential tools and equipment.
· Ensure no more than one person at a time is working in a limited space such as a hood, glove box, sink area, safety cabinet, or small room.
· Clean/sanitize shared tools, equipment, and materials with CDC-approved solutions.
· Contact department chair or appropriate classroom/lab/space/studio manager if additional cleaning supplies are required.

COVID-19 Precautions:
You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

(all classes) Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety.

UTEP 2020 Calendar:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15E7TbvgwkBm2r-Q9c1opldqHqpGrz5oGqSPDufuaxc/edit#gid=1794555296

UTEP DANCE Absence Policy
-COVID update, August 2020

To succeed in any course, but especially a dance course where students can often only learn by experiential participation, a student must first and above all be present. Therefore, the Absence Policy of the UTEP Dance Program prioritizes class attendance and participation at the top of the grading process.

However, due to the unforeseen circumstances dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic, we, as faculty, want to recognize and honor the challenges of online learning (both synchronous and asynchronous), and the difficulties in accessing an appropriate space to move, dance, rehearse, and create dance work.
Because every student’s circumstance is unique, we encourage students to be as open and honest as possible when encountering unexpected challenges, as well as to communicate in advance potential issues that could affect their commitment to a class (child care, elder care, shifting work schedule…).

E-mail your instructors (and TAs if any) as soon as an issue comes up: this is the only way you can get help and possible accommodations while minimizing the impact on your academic progress. While every situation will be assessed by the instructor of record, the more a student is responsible to communicate in a clear and effective way, the easier it will be to find a positive solution. Make up classes might be an option to discuss with your instructor of record.

The following guideline is intended for ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS OR HYBRID CLASSES

**Technique/Theory/Creative Classes that meet twice or three times a week**

In a course that meets twice a week, a student is allowed a maximum of 6 absences in an entire semester, 4 of which require no justification and result in no penalty. A student may use these absences based on personal necessity. The 5th and 6th absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the 7th absence, regardless of the student’s current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails the course.

For courses that meet three times a week, the allowance is 8 absences. The course grade is reduced by ½ letter each for the 7th, 8th, and the student automatically fails at the 9th absence.

**Technique classes meeting 4 and 5 times a week**

For courses that meet four and five times a week, the maximum allowance for an entire semester is 10 absences. The 9th and 10th absences result in the lowering of the overall course grade by ½ letter. At the 11th absence, the student fails the course regardless of course average.

Exceptions:

· In the event of international bridge closures, exceptions may be made and make-up course work assigned.
· In case of an injury or extended illness, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with his or her instructor to discuss possible solutions for course continuation or to consider dropping the class.
· In the event of highly unusual or extenuating circumstances, a student may petition the course instructor and department chair for permission to continue in a course.

**Resources:** Students are encouraged to speak with professionals from UTEP’s Counseling and
Psychological Services on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Union Building West, Room 202. In addition, the Miners Talk Crisis Line at 915-747-5302 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The University Counseling Center is located at 202 Union West, (915) 747-5302, for walk-in appointments, workshops, career and study skills. For more information, visit https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/.

**The Center for Accommodation and Support Services:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or 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 https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/.

**Writing Center:** The University Writing Center is located in the UTEP library room 227 for drop-in tutoring and assistance with your writing assignments and final papers. For more information, visit https://www.utep.edu/uwc/.

**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.