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Fall 9-1-2022

DANC 220.01: Creative Practice I

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**University of Montana
School of Theatre and Dance
Creative Practice 1
(DANC 220-B01)**

**2 Credits T/R 9:00 am – 10:50 am
PARTV 005
Fall 2022
August 29th-December 9th**

**Instructor: Brooklyn Draper
Contact:**

brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu

(208)670-0593

Office Hours (186):

T/TH: 11:00am-12:30pm

***please email in advance**

“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

-Scott Adams

“...being creative is a full-time job with its own daily patterns...Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is a result of good work habits.”

-Twyla Tharp

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

(R-4) Offered Autumn. Exploration of stimulus, structure, and performance of both composed and improvised movement. Elements such as space, shape, energy, motion, time, quality, form and awareness emphasized. Instructor designed structures, transitioning to student-designed scores, culminating in originally created/improvised performance.

Many Dance Technique courses satisfy the General Education Expressive Arts Credit. To receive an Expressive Arts Credit, the student must enroll in the course for a traditional grade and receive a C- or higher.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is designed to explore multiple concepts within improvisation and choreographic practice and introduces a range of approaches to creative process, evolving and manipulating material, and thinking and speaking about how dances are made. The course follows a workshop format, incorporating studio investigation, reading, writing, and group discussions. I view this course as a practice of creative habits, play, inner and outer expression, risk-taking, and choice-making. Improvisation, composition, and creativity are a daily practice, and this course helps to give you tools to support your individual approaches and decisions. Vulnerability and bravery are huge aspects of creating and require us to put ourselves and our ideas out in the open for others to witness. Creativity also requires taking ownership for our work and, ultimately, our beliefs in what we are making.

We will discuss our interests and challenges in ways that compel us to gain knowledge within our own creative practice. A safe space of support for peers and an encouraging environment where critical and supportive feedback **is expected**. This is a time to share our struggles, enthusiastic moments, and ideas that surround our experiences of dance making.

It is important in this class to practice giving constructive feedback that is objective and sets aside your own aesthetic preferences. This course encourages students to find new approaches to creative practice and making work. These concepts are influenced and informed by both us and our peers. Therefore, it is important to remember that everyone's work is critical to the learning process. We learn through observing and talking about work made by others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion, students should be able to:

- Create and give well-crafted form to movement vocabulary that conveys their personal sense of invention, exploration, and voice
- Self-assess movement explorations and compositional studies
- Respond verbally and in writing with sensitivity, clarity, and insight to choreographic works
- Create solo and small group composition using the elements of dance, compositional principles, and compositional structures.
- Identify ways in which they can draw inspiration from life experiences for choreographic works
- Identify the components of the creative process- sensing, feeling, transforming, and forming
- Develop a constructive method to deliver and receive feedback

TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS:

- Required Text: *The Intimate Act of Choreography* by Lynn Anne Blom
- Required Recording Device: Video camera, iPad, or phone are all acceptable. Make sure there is sufficient storage space on it **BEFORE** class begins.
- Required Journal (this should be a notebook used for just this course)
- Recommended Text for all dance makers:
 - *The Art of Making Dances* by Doris Humphrey
 - *Modern Dance* by Ralph Lemon
 - *A Choreographer's Handbook* by Jonathan Burrows
 - *The Creative Habit* by Twyla Tharp
 - *Choreographing Copyright* by Anthea Kraut

Please: NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, DRINK, OR CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN DANCE STUDIOS AT ANY TIME. The only shoes that are permitted in the studios are those that have been purchased for the exclusive use of dance in dance studios (with the exclusion of tap shoes, hard-shoe clogs and flamenco shoes, these must **never** be worn on the Marley floors.) Please be considerate of leaving an accessible walkway in front of the studio doors (not piling up shoes on the mats.)

NOTE: **Lockers** are available for any student. The School of Theatre and Dance recommends that students do not leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, dance studios, or theatres as thefts frequently occur. Lockers may be checked out through the School: details TBA.

At this time, the wearing of masks is optional in our studios. Please be flexible and understanding as this, or any of our policies may change over the course of the semester.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DANCE CLASSES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING DANCE CONCERTS:

- ***Dance on Location*** – Saturday, Oct 8 at 2pm – meet at the Mansfield Library entrance/courtyard
 - Free! Live outdoor tour of dances around campus
- ***Dance Underground*** – Dec 2 @ 7:30pm, Dec 3 @ 2:00pm and 7:30pm
 - Tickets \$5-10, performance in PARTV Open Space

Plus one of the following:

- ***Bare Bait Dance's Missoula Roadshow*** – September 9, 10, 11
 - Free! 3 amazing locations! Each day a different venue
<https://barebaitdance.org/roadshow2022>
- ***Bare Bait Dance's Guest Performance Residency: RED*** – October 28 - 30
 - Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/red> \$22 student ticket
- ***Bare Bait Dance's Hello Winter!*** – November 26 – December 4
 - Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/hello-winter> \$22 student ticket
 - Also available streaming beginning Dec 5. \$10 ticket

Your instructor *may* require attendance to additional concerts, presentations, master classes or online events or they *may* choose to offer students a chance to use concert attendance as bonus karma points. This is not a comprehensive list and is at the discretion of each instructor.

- Dance Production **Auditions**: Thurs. Sept 1 at 6pm in PARTV 005 – everyone welcome!
- UM School of Theatre & Dance additional Mainstage/Studio Series shows – live!
<https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/season/default.php>
 - *Cabaret* (October 13-16 and 20-23)
 - *The Call of the Wild* (November 10, 12, 13, 17-20)
- Montana Repertory Theatre productions: www.montanarep.com

Your instructor will require a written critique, quiz, or something else of their own choosing. You will need to give specific examples to support your opinions, so take notes either during or after the concerts. Regardless of your assignment, as you watch, it will be helpful to think about the following:

1. To which pieces did you experience a strong reaction?
2. Regarding the choreography of each piece: What is the content, subject, meaning or movement idea?

How did the movement/style of the movement support (or detract from) the choreographic message?

What is it about the movement/choreography/performance that inspired your reaction?

Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique.

Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets and sound score. Did they work with the choreography? Provide details to support your opinions.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICY – DANCE TECHNIQUE

Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, watching a film of the dance or reading about it in a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss.

The Dance Faculty EXPECTS STUDENTS TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, students are permitted the equivalent of 1 week of absences. Given the content of a dance class, no makeup work can be done when a student is absent.

AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR PERMITTABLE ABSENCES, YOU WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL ABSENCE.

Observations: Students are allowed two observations per semester. Each observation after the allotted two will be counted as an absence. Please refer to the Observation Policy for what is expected when you observe a class.

Students who arrive late or have to leave early, will be asked to observe the entire class time.

GRADING: Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason, we do not have a point breakdown, but rather general guidelines.

To receive an "A" you must:

- show signs of aptitude for dance technique
- have an energetic, attentive attitude
- progress over the semester
- be at the top level of the class, and, of course,
- fulfill the attendance, critique, and exam requirements

*Please refer to the Dance Program Technique Criteria Guidelines .

You will receive an "F" if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an "F." Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+, etc.). Students may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if there are exceptional circumstances, *that have been discussed in advance, and at length with the instructor.*

GRADING CRITERIA:

Improvisational & Compositional Studies: 60%

Reflection Journal: 10%

Concert Attendance: 10%

Culminating Project: 20%

- **Improvisational & Compositional Studies (60%):** Improvisational and compositional studies will be done throughout the semester. These will consist of solos, duets, and group work. Guidelines and instructions regarding these studies will be given in class and will relate to the reading material and discussions we are having at that time. Students will have class time to work on these studies but may have to work outside of class to complete assignments.
- **Reflection Journal (10%):** This journal will consist of notes on the work students create and see in this course. There will be writing prompts assigned each week by the instructor. This is an academic journal and should be used for recording class assignments and reactions to course material. This is not a personal journal, and the instructor will read it in its entirety. Journals will be graded two times throughout the semester. Journals will be graded on completion of writing assignments given by instructor, reading notes, and the quality of reflection. Journals can include lecture notes, diagrams, sketches, analysis, compositional/improvisational notes, discussion summaries, etc. Due October 20th and December 8th.
- **Concert Analysis (10%):** This assignment gives students the opportunity to practice their analytical skills they have developed throughout this course. See above section titled “Concert Attendance.”
- **Final Project (20%):** Students will compose a final project of choreography to be performed during Finals Week. This can be a solo, duo, trio or group piece (*This is subject to change). The goal of the final project is to provide an opportunity for the dance artist to exhibit the tools they have learned throughout the semester. **Final Projects will be presented on finals week: December 15th 10:10am-12:10pm in 005.**

Grading Scale

A 100-94

A-93-90

B+ 89-87

B 86-84

B- 83-80

C+ 79-77

C 76-74

C- 73-70

D+ 69-67

D 66-64

D- 63-60

F 59-0

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. We honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

PERSONAL FEEDBACK/OFFICE HOURS:

I will gladly meet and discuss class feedback and any issues/concerns you may have. If my office hours do not fit with your schedule, please email me at brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu to set up a different time.

SYLLABUS CHANGE NOTICE:

This syllabus is a working document and is subject to change based on the needs of the class and instructor. Students will be informed of all changes made to the syllabus.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

From UM President Seth Bodnar

The wide availability of safe, effective vaccines to combat COVID-19 means that we are able to return to full in person learning this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated if you haven't done so already. Vaccination provides the best means of protecting yourself – and others in our UM Family – from the risk of COVID-19.

Please visit <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/corona-virus.php> for the latest health/safety information, as well as campus communications and plans about the global health pandemic.

From the EO/AA Office:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>.

STATEMENT OF EMPOWERMENT

The School of Theatre and Dance recognizes that art can provoke; therefore, during the course of this class or class-related activities, participants are empowered to remove themselves should they feel a threat to their well-being.

WELLNESS STATEMENT

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, and cross-cultural challenges can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the CHC Health Portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text Line: text MT to 741-741.