

Dance 301—Composition II
Spring 2017
Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:50

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Office Hours: M 3-4, Th 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

Dance 301 – Composition 1

Final Exam: Tuesday May 16th 12:30-2:30pm

Final Performance Date: Sunday May 14th 2 pm

Required Text:

Humphrey, Doris, *The Art of Making Dances*. 4th Ed. Princeton, Princeton Book Company: 1991

Nagrin, Daniel. *Choreography and the Specific Image*. Pittsburgh, U of P Press: 2000

Suggested Texts:

Blom, Lynne and L. Tarin Chaplin. *The Intimate Act of Choreography*. Pittsburgh, U of P Press: 1982

Course Description:

This course is designed for dance majors and minors who are beginning to develop their choreographic voice. The course explores the fundamental elements of choreography (space, time, energy) in the group form through improvisational exercises and formal choreographic studies.

Course Content:

The course content explores choreographic concepts through readings about choreography and the creative process, video viewings of artistic work, assigned choreographic studies, and discussions. The choreography assignments are designed to give you the opportunity to explore the possibilities of the group form within a prescribed context.

Course Goals:

- To introduce students to the fundamental elements of choreography: space, time and energy.
- To provide students with a toolbox of essential skills for dance composition.
- To expose students to a variety of approaches to creating group dances.
- To expose students to historic and contemporary choreographers and their work.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and use the essential components of dance composition to create group dance studies.
- Students will be able to articulate observations and engage in feedback with peers.
- Students will be able to write and speak clearly, thoughtfully, and critically about their own and others' choreography.

Course Requirements and Information:

Attendance

It is the dance program policy to allow no more than two (2) absences. Six (6) absences result in a failing grade. Frequent tardiness will not be tolerated and will lower your grade. Two (2) tardies will be counted as one (1) absence. Each additional absence beyond the two (2) allowed will lower your grade a full letter

grade (A to B, etc.). **You are required to contact me prior to class either by email or phone if you are going to be absent.** You are responsible for keeping track of your number of absences.

Participation

You are encouraged you to arrive early and to begin the process of focusing on your work and the class ahead. You are expected to dress appropriately and actively participate (physically, mentally, and verbally) in the full class session. You should be well prepared to show your work (drafts and final) on the assigned date. As a student in the class, you are required to both choreograph your own studies as well as be a dancer in your classmate's work. Being inside of a creative process can give you valuable insight into your own creative work; take class with a positive and healthy attitude toward learning and investigating choreography while respecting each other's abilities and limitations.

Observation and Feedback

Discussing and responding to your own and others' work are wonderful and important parts of your training as choreographers. We will look at a variety of approaches for observing, discussing, responding to, and giving feedback to studies. Working with information cumulatively, from class to class, is a great way to grow throughout the semester.

Reading, Writing, and Video Presentation Assignments

To develop fully as choreographers it is also important for us to thoughtfully write about what we see. Course readings and video viewings provide a historical frame for our work as contemporary choreographers and serve as affective examples for dance writing and criticism.

- **Choreographer Presentation**

You will work in pairs to give a short presentation on a choreographer assigned to you.

- Select a short video clip (2-3 minutes) that best represents the choreographer's work.
- Give a brief history of the choreographer
- Give any further details about this choreographer's approach
- Give several social, political, cultural, economic facts about the time this choreographer was working. This information helps put into a world context the relevance of the choreographer's work.

Documenting your work

You are strongly encouraged to bring your own video recording device to document your work in class. The department camera will be used to document final studies and is available to you during any class period with prior notification. This camera requires mini DV tapes.

Participating Outside of Class:

Outside of Class Meeting Time – Consider Sunday Evenings 5-9 Comp Lab Time

There will be outside class hours expected to complete your choreography studies. You will need to have time to dedicate to your own choreography as well as time to be involved in your classmate's work. Dance majors and minors may reserve NFAC dance center studios each week. The weekly studio schedules are posted on the NFAC 136A warm-up area bulletin board. Your final study is in the musical theatre genre, will use students from Dance 212 and will require a minimum of one hour rehearsal per week outside of class. You will be required to be a dancer in one additional musical theatre study.

Outside of Class Performance Viewings:

You are **required** to attend:

- *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, February 10-12, 15-18 Studio Theatre
- *The Miracle Worker*, March 3-5, 9-11 Jenkins Theatre
- *Danstage 2017*, April 7-9, 13-15 Jenkins Theatre
- *Blood Wedding*, May 5-7, 10-12 Studio Theatre
- An event of your choice from Art and Design, Music, Literature or Poetry reading, or Film

- o Post your thoughts regarding the event you attend and answer the following questions "How did your attendance shed insight into your understanding of choreography? Or relate to the choreographic explorations you've been doing in class?"

Performance Calendar link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance/productions/index.aspx>

Box office: <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/uit/ordering.asp>

All Theatre & Dance event tickets are free the day of the performance or \$4.50 in advance.

Evaluation and Grading:

Personal Progress, Effort, Participation, Attitude, (40%)

Consistent attendance in class provides the greatest opportunity for growth and development in choreographic ingenuity. While in class, student attentiveness, motivation, positive attitude, promptness, commitment, concentration and focus, respect of instructor and peers, willingness to dig deep and take risks, completion of all drafts and final assignments, active participation in discussion and feedback sessions, and completion of all reading, viewing, and writing assignments will be considered in final grading. An active engagement in the class and an eagerness to try new things is essential for a successful, exciting, and enjoyable experience.

Choreographic Studies (40%)

Studies will explore the fundamental elements of dance composition including time, space, energy, motivation, relationship, movement invention in concert and commercial dance forms. Assessment is based on completion of all choreographic studies with integrity, focus, and commitment.

Written Assignments and Choreographer Presentation (20%)

Guidelines for specific assignments will be given in class and may include: In class writing, performance response, video analysis, musical theatre research, and choreographer presentations.

Grading

Participation, Progress, Attitude	40%
Choreographic Studies	40%
<u>Written Assignments & Presentation</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

More than two (2) absences will lower your grade a full letter grade. I look forward to an exciting and enriching semester together!

Letter	GPA	Points
A	4.0	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	63-66
F	0.00	0-62

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations have been developed for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information go to:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilites.aspx>.

The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Chapter 14. A direct link can be found here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyinfo.pdf>.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability Services Office and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way I can. For more information, please visit the Disability Services Office, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>