

DANCE 328: Career Seminar

Fall 2016: Mondays 3 – 4:30

NFAC 130

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NFAC 140E

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Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30, W 9-10, Th 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

Dance Program Mission Statement

UWSP's dance program aspires to create a dynamic culture in which students are inspired to achieve full physical expression, technical and stylistic range, and anatomical efficiency. We are dedicated to artistic experimentation and contemporary inquiry that is culturally relevant and historically grounded, preparing students to communicate, contribute and lead as global citizen artists.

Required Text: Dance from the Campus to the Real World (and Back Again) Callahan

Course Description:

This course is designed for the dance major. It is a seminar class that explores the many options of a dance career. The readings, activities and discussions are designed to provide you with the time and space to consider the many directions that your professional career can take. Activities include preparing a professional resume and website, exploring graduate school opportunities, identifying appealing locations and professional dance companies, writing a grant, understanding the tax process for artists, and attending a professional audition.

Goals:

- To prepare students for a successful transition from university to a professional career in dance.
- To provide students with information, links, projects, activities and discussions that illuminate the breadth of the field.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- create an action plan for the year following graduation
- create professional resumes
- prepare a personal website
- evaluate the pros and cons of attending a professional dance audition
- examine and analyze two dance companies of interest
- research graduate schools
- propose a viable existence in a new location
- discuss entrepreneurship
- share their experience preparing a grant application
- prepare a post-graduation financial plan

Course Information:

Projects/Topics:

1. PREPARING MATERIALS & MEDIA PRESENCE

- Performance Resume
- Teaching & Choreography Resume
- Headshot
- Personal website (revisited in Dance 496)

2. ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS

- Identify companies of interest
- Research audition opportunities
- Schedule and attend at least one professional audition
- Resources – exploring and adding to online links
- Continuing to use networking sites – COFAC, Theatre & Dance Department, Dance audition sites
- Requesting References

3. RESEARCHING LOCATIONS

- Web of Connectivity – who do you know
- Dance Scene – amateur, pick up and professional companies
- Studios – where to study, where to teach
- Performances – what to see, ushering
- Housing – purchase, rent, sublet, share
- Cost of Living – housing, utilities, transportation, food, classes
- Day job opportunities – physical, mental & financial considerations

4. FURTHER EDUCATION

- Graduate School Research
- Summer Workshops, Festivals, Training Programs

5. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GRANT WRITING

- Discuss Entrepreneurship
- Preparing a grant application

6. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Financial Future – loans, savings
- Calculating the amount you need to make the next move
- Questions about Taxes
- Starting a Small Business - Non-Profit vs. Profit

Course Expectations:

Attendance

Consistent attendance and full participation in this seminar class are essential. You are expected to be on time (early) and to stay for the entire class. If you will be miss class you are required to notify me in advance by email or voicemail. One excused absence may be permitted. All other absences will be considered unexcused. Note: 2 times tardy = 1 absence. It is the Dance Program's policy that 3 absences will result in a failing grade.

Preparation

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The more deeply you investigate each assignment, the better prepared you will feel to enter the professional world. Late assignments will affect your grade.

Participation

Consistent focused and enthusiastic participation (mental, verbal, written) includes: promptness, attentiveness, motivation, deep inquiry, positive attitude, commitment, and concentration. An active engagement in the class and an eagerness to explore fully post-graduation plans will make for a satisfying class experience.

Performance Attendance Viewing

You are expected to attend all Department of Theatre & Dance productions:

- *Unnecessary Farce* Studio Theatre, Directed by Tyler Marchant, October 14 – 16, 19 – 22
- *La Cage Aux Folles*, Jenkins Theatre, Directed by Alan Kenny, November 4-6, 9-12
- *Afterimages 2016*, Jenkins Theatre, December 9-11
- *Afterimages Unplugged*, Studio 130, October 22 & 23

Email

You are responsible for the information sent to your UWSP email, and to check your UWSP email daily for class updates and announcements. Relevant information will also be posted on D2L, the Dance Program 136A bulletin board, and the Department of Theatre & Dance callboard (NFAC Courtyard, near the main Theatre & Dance office). Check SMOD and Face Book for additional performance listings and announcements.

Evaluation and Grading:

Participation and Excellent & Timely Completion of Assignments (100%)

You will get the most out of this seminar by fully investing in the projects and written assignments. These activities are designed to provide you with the time and space to consider the many options that your professional career can take. Consistent attendance in class provides the greatest opportunity for discussion and dialogue with your peers.

Final Exam Tuesday, December 20th 5-7 pm

ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Overall Class Participation **10%**

Attendance, presence, class discussion 25 points

Goal Planning **15%**

Post Grad Plans 5 points
Chart of Personal Goals 5 points
Time Pie 5 points
Financial Plan/Budget 10 points
Forwarding Address & Website 5 points

Preparing Materials and Media Presence **20%**

Performance Resume Draft 1 10 points
Performance Resume Draft 2 10 points
Resume Final (Spring Semester) 5 points
Teaching/Choreography Resume Draft 10 points
Teaching/Choreography Resume Final 10 points
Website Draft (Updates in 496) 40 points

Researching Locations	20%
Web of Connectivity	5 points
City/Location Research (3)	30 points

Dance Artists/Companies	20%
Artist/Company Research (3)	20 points
Attending an Audition	10 points
Audition Report	10 points

Further Education	15%
Summer Program Research (2)	5 points
Graduate Programs Research (2)	10 points
Grant Application Writing	20 points

Evaluation rubric for assignments:

5 = superb	10 = superb
4 = good job	9 = very good job
3 = satisfies requirement	8 = good job
	7 = satisfies requirement