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DANC 165A.01: Dance Forms - African

Tarn Ream

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Dance Forms: African (DANC 165A, Sec. 1; CRN 73534; 2 credits)

Instructor: Tarn Ream Tarn.Ream@umontana.edu (Emergencies only: 549-7933)

School of Theatre & Dance, Autumn Semester 2013: Monday and Wednesday 4:10-5:30pm, PARTV 005

(NOTE: I do not have an office for office hours, but I am available for scheduled meeting times.)

Description and objectives: An introduction to the movement vocabulary of traditional African dance—learn specific dances (and how the rhythms drive them), songs, and a cultural/historical background, as well as getting a taste for how African music and dance have shaped modern forms. This class is suitable for all skill levels and accompanied by live drum music.

Requirements:

1. **NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIOS!!!**
2. All students enrolled in classes who are not Theatre/Dance majors are highly encouraged by the Department to sign up as “Credit/No Credit.” PLEASE NOTE: in order to receive Expressive Arts (General Education Requirement) credit for this class, a student must enroll for a traditional grade and receive a grade of “C” or higher. Students registered for Credit/No Credit option must perform at the equivalent of a “D” grade or higher to receive Credit. *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 Disability Services for Students (DSS). For more information, please consult <http://life.umd.edu/dss/>.*
3. **Attendance** (see attendance policy below)
4. **Written assignments** (see below/over)
5. **Group project** for Festival of the Dead (I will give you a separate hand-out for that)

Important dates:

September 2 (Monday): Labor Day Holiday (no classes)

September 4 (Wednesday): Last day to add classes on Cyberbear

September 16 (Monday): Last day to add (with Override Form)/drop (Cyberbear) courses

November 11 (Monday): Veterans Day Holiday (no classes)

November 27-29 (Wednesday-Friday): Thanksgiving Travel Day and Holiday (no classes)

December 6 is the last day to change options/drop/add, **and may be done after October 29 by petition only.**

December 9-13 (Monday-Friday): Final Examinations (no final, we will schedule a class)

Grading Policy:

Grading in dance is not quantifiable, and there is not a point breakdown, but there are some general guidelines. To receive an “A” you must:

- *show aptitude for dance technique and musicality
 - *attend class and fulfill written requirements
 - *complete additional assignments on time
 - *have an energetic, attentive attitude
 - *progress over the semester
- * You will receive an “F” for lack of attendance and/or critiques (see below). You may receive an “incomplete” (I) only if you have exceptional circumstances that you have discussed with the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body DO IT.

You gain flexibility and strength, take in the music and hear how the rhythms fit with the dance,

and build on a core of movement when you come to class. Therefore **it is important that you**

NOT MISS CLASS and I expect you there **EVERY** time, **ON TIME** (if you are consistently tardy, I

will start docking your grade)! You will be given **two free absences**, for unpredictable circumstances, etc.

In addition, you may also **make up two classes** by taking an additional African/African-based class or

observing/participating in another dance class and writing one page about your experience. When you

submit your make-up papers, include the date of the class that you are making up near the top with your

name and ID. **After you have used your two absences and two make-ups, you will be docked 1/3 of a**

grade (e.g. from B+ to B) for every following absence.

Written Assignments:

- 1. Artist statement for group project (I will give you a separate hand-out about that)**
- 2. Attendance (and/or participation) is required by the Dance Dept. at A., C., and D. below.**
 - A. **UM Dancers on Location, October 12-13** (Sat/Sun) noon, Mansfield Library Mall. **Free.**
 - B. **Festival of the Dead Parade and Performance, November 2** (Sat.), pre-parade performances start at 5:30pm-ish (north end of Higgins), parade starts at 6:30pm, post-parade performances 7:00ish at Caras Park. **Free.**
 - C. **Fall Studio Works: Informal Dance Concert, Nov. 15-16** (Fri/Sat), 6:30&8:30p, PARTV 005, \$5 one show, or \$8 for both shows. Tickets at the door.
 - D. **Dance Up Close, December 3-7** (Tue-Sat), 7:30p (plus Sat. 2p matinee), Masquer Theatre, \$6 ticket for required students with ID can be purchased at the PARTV Box Office (your name will be on a list). **NOTE: get your ticket early, as some nights sell out!!!! You may usher for PARTV performances by signing up at the Box Office in the lobby.**

A written critique is required for all three required events, plus your personal AND group artist statement for the Festival of the Dead group project. Take notes at the events you attend/participate in so when you write you can give **specific** examples to support your critique. Critiques **must be turned in on the Monday that follows one week after the event** you are writing about (ex.: you attend Dancers on Location on Oct. 12, then you must turn in critique on Oct. 21). **Your grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a grade for every critique you do not hand in. You will be docked 1/3 of a grade if two or more critiques are turned in late.** Outside sources of information may be added to your critique, AS LONG AS THEY ARE PROPERLY REFERENCED and from a "reputable" source. Critiques should be well-written and not more than two pages using standard font and format (please use single or 1.5 space to save paper), and should include the following:

1. Which pieces did you feel strongly about (loved, disliked, confused, etc.) and why?
2. For AFRICAN pieces: What was the traditional purpose for the dance(s)? What ethnic group and country did the dance come from?
3. Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique
4. Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets, and sound score AND did they work with the choreography?
5. On the choreography of each piece (address the following questions, if applicable):
 - a. What was the theme or movement idea?
 - b. What was the style of dance and how does it work with the theme?
 - c. How did the movement or progression of the piece lend itself to your reaction to it?

Locker rentals (\$7/semester; \$13/year, prices include a lock) are available for ALL students in the dance classes. We recommend that you do NOT leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, or dance studios, as **thefts do occur**. See the Dance Administrative Assistant (Teresa), in the booth above 005 from 8-noon M-F, to rent a locker.

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 http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

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

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.