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DANC 360L.01: World Dance

Nicole W. Bradley Browning

University of Montana - Missoula, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu

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DANC 360L World Dance
University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance
T/R 9:10-10:30 AM PARTV 005
Autumn 2013

Instructor: Professor Nicole Bradley Browning
Office: PAR/TV 185, x2682
Email: nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu
Hours: M/W: 10:40-11:40, T: 10:45-11:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of dance, a universal art found in all human societies, is reflective of cultural history, aesthetics and belief systems. To more completely comprehend dance of diverse cultures, students will study the societies and time periods from which the dances evolved. Through this investigation, students will better understand dance as: an emblem of cultural identity, social order, power and gender-specific behavior; an expression of religious worship and/or ritual; a classical art form; and as a medium for personal expression in western and non-western cultures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance one's understanding of the various political, social and sacred functions of dance cross culturally and through specific time periods.
2. To increase one's knowledge of history and events relative to the development of dance in western and non-western cultures.
3. To provide emerging dance artists with sources of inspiration which exemplify physical, intellectual and emotional qualities of dance.
4. To introduce and exercise scholarly practices in dance including: research, synthesis and writing.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course stimulates active learning through movement, lecture, discussion, reading, research, writing, dance viewing and presentations.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Gerald, Jonas. Dancing: The Pleasure, Power, and Art of Movement

Albright and Dils. Moving History/Dancing Cultures: A Dance History Reader

Selections from these texts will be available for assigned readings on Moodle, as will additional reading materials. It is each student's responsibility to access online readings. Additional articles may be made available in the form of class handouts. Students are required to take notes for this course albeit electronically or via hardcopy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance, participation in class discussion and completion of reading assignments and quizzes at the discretion of the instructor.
2. It is expected that students view as much "live" dance as possible. Students are required to attend 3 performances.
3. A midterm and final exam will test assimilation and understanding of material assigned through readings and lecture. Generally this exam is designed as a take-home exam, available on Moodle. Questions may include: factual information, historical analysis and cultural interpretation.

4. A final project and paper are required on a subject approved by the instructor. To aid the research process, each week (for a period of three weeks) a three-page paper summarizing progress, materials gathered and creative thoughts on the subject will be submitted. The three-page papers must include at least 3 separate sources that can range from books and magazines, on-line journals and films to interviews, videos, paintings and sculptures. Students are required to use books as resources for this study. Strict attention must be given to quotes and footnotes for each progress paper. These progress papers will be submitted electronically to the instructor. A final project honoring a culture is a critical part of the research project. This practicum part of the project may involve students choreographing and/or performing a dance or leading the class through a choreographed group dance that exemplifies and teaches about the culture through the basic elements of movement: body, space, time and energy. The first progress report will be submitted to the instructor for research subject approval and evidence of support materials, a peer will review the second, and the third will be submitted to the instructor for grade. If the student is seeking an Area of Permissive Specialized Competency in Dance, then this final project MUST research a dance of Native American culture.
5. Information Literacy: As part of this course, students are provided the opportunity to receive a special topics course at the Mansfield Library that introduces the responsibility of contemporary university students to thoughtfully discriminate information relative to her/his research in academia and in this case, dance. The Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education provide a set of information literacy standards, performance indicators, and outcomes that serve as the basis for assisting learners to master content and extend their investigations, to become more self-directed, and to assume greater control over their own learning.
6. GRADING
 - Attendance, class participation (in discussion and movement exploration!), quizzes
25%
 - Attendance to Dance Concerts
15%
 - Midterm Exam
10%
 - Progress Reports (3)
15%
 - Final Project and Paper
30%
 - Final Exam
10%

* Important note: Two absences are permitted during the semester. Each additional absence warrants a lowering of your grade 1/3 letter point (i.e. A becomes A-).

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 School 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.

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). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.