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University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025

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Fall 9-1-2022

### DANC 165A.01: Dance Forms - African

Tarn Ream

University of Montana, Missoula, [tarn.ream@umontana.edu](mailto:tarn.ream@umontana.edu)

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*Dancing is like flying – you have to trust the ground is going to be there when you come back down.*

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

### **Dance Forms: African (DANC 165A, Sec. 1; CRN 71199; 3 credits)**

**Instructor: Tarn Ream** [Tarn.Ream@umontana.edu](mailto:Tarn.Ream@umontana.edu) (Emergencies only: 549-7933)

**School of Theatre & Dance, Autumn Semester 2022: Tuesday/Thursday 4:00-5:20pm, PARTV 005**

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

**Course description and objectives:** An introduction to the movement vocabulary of traditional African dance—students will learn/practice/express/choreograph specific dances (and how the rhythms drive them), songs, and a cultural/historical background, as well as getting a taste for how traditional African music and dance shapes modern forms. This class is suitable for all skill levels and accompanied by live music.

**“Dance first. Think later. It’s the natural order.” — Samuel Beckett**

#### **Requirements:**

1. NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, DRINK, OR CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIOS!!!
2. To receive Expressive Arts (General Education Competency 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.
3. *The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). If you think you may have a disability affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with ODE, please visit them in Aber Hall. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>.*
4. **Attendance** (see attendance policy below)
5. **Written assignments** (see below)
6. **Group project** (I will give you a separate hand-out for this)

#### **Important dates** (more at <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar.php>):

September 7 (Wednesday): Last day to add classes on Cyberbear

September 19 (Monday): Last day to drop/change/add (with Override Form) classes on Cyberbear

November 8 (Tuesday): Election Day (no classes)

November 23-25 (Wednesday-Friday): Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)

December 9 (Friday): last day to ADD/CHANGE/DROP (by petition) and withdraw from classes

December 12-16: Finals week (no final, we will schedule a fun 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 all 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.

*No matter how mighty and strong a tree is, it will always dance to the tune of the wind.*

*--Okelola Osamigoke*

Whatever music you beat on your drum there is somebody who can dance to it.

--CHINUA ACHEBE

### 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 (in person or online). 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.** **\*\*\*Please communicate with me in a timely manner. You will not be penalized for missing class if you are under quarantine, ill, or if you must take care of someone who may be ill.\*\*\*** **This is only applicable if you initiate conversation with me, otherwise absences will accumulate.**

**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, may be asked to observe the entire class time.

### Written Assignments (required):

1. **Artist statement(s) for the group project and performance** (I will give you a separate hand-out).
2. **Two critiques of dance performances--the department requires that you attend all of the following:**
  - 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 (005)
  - Plus one of the following:
    - Bare Bait Dance’s Missoula Roadshow – September 9, 10, 11 o Free! 3 amazing locations! Each day a different venue <https://barebaitdance.org/roadshow2022>
    - Bare Bait Dance’s Guest Performance Residency: RED – October 28 - 30 o Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/red> \$22 student ticket
    - Bare Bait Dance’s Hello Winter! – November 26 – December 4 o Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/hello-winter> \$22 student ticket. (Also available streaming beginning Dec 5. \$10 ticket)

In addition to your personal AND group artist statement for the group project, you are required to turn in a **written critique of two separate performances**. 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 (example: you attend Dance on Location on Oct. 8, then you must turn in critique by Oct. 17). **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 assignments 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, or better yet, email them to me), and should include the following:

1. Which pieces did you experience a strong reaction to (loved, disliked, confused, etc.) and why?
2. Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique
3. Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets, and sound score AND did they work with the choreography?
4. On the choreography of each piece (address the following questions, if applicable):
  - a. What was the theme, content, subject, meaning, or movement idea?
  - b. What was the style of dance and how does it work with the theme/choreographic message?
  - c. How did the movement or progression of the piece lend itself to your reaction to it?

*"Music is the weapon of the future" ~Fela Kuti Sharpen your weapons.*

*Just get up and dance. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion. ~Martha Graham*

## **RULES and REGS**

**NO** street shoes are allowed in the dance studio at any time, even carried in-hand. Anyone entering the studio must remove their street shoes **BEFORE** entering and leave them outside the studio. The only shoes permitted in 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 should never be worn on Marley floors).

**NO** food or drinks (except water in closed bottles) are permitted in the dance studios or theatres. Individuals concerned about theft should check out a locker for their shoes and other belongings.

NOTE: **Lockers** are available for any student for FREE. The School of Theatre & 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: schedule TBA.

**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](http://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 Department of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.**

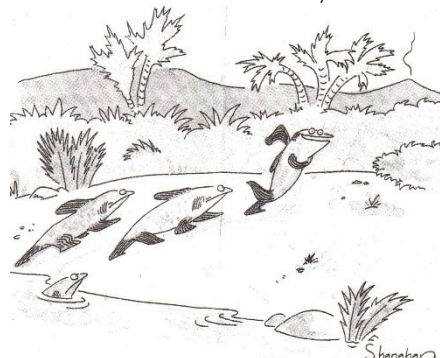
\*There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do 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 continue full in-person learning again this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated (and receive a booster shot) 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.

**STATEMENT OF EMPOWERMENT:** The Dance Program 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. Please keep in communication with me should this occur, a simple email stating "empowerment pass" is fine—no need for explanation, and no questions asked.

**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](http://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.



*"Walk, bell—I gotta dance!"*