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Fall 9-1-2022

DANC 400.01: Contemporary Modern Dance IV

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**University of Montana
School of Theatre and Dance
Modern/Contemporary IV
(DANC 400-01)**

**3 Credits M/W/F 11:00 am – 12:50 pm
PARTV 005
Fall 2022
August 29th-December 9th**

**Instructor: Brooklyn Draper
Contact:**

**brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu
(208)670-0593**

**Office Hours (186):
T/TH: 11:00am-12:30pm
*please email in advance**

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

(R-12) Offered Autumn and Spring. Extension of the modern dance vocabulary through lengthier combinations of movement.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course provides advanced level technical training in contemporary modern dance technique and introduces students to a more extensive understanding of contemporary modern dance movement vocabulary. This course will give students the continued opportunity to further their technical practice and facilities. The course will focus on body connectivity, dynamic effort qualities, exploration of varying degrees of flow, and an investigation of many approaches towards space. The course will also focus on finding dynamics in movement through focusing fundamental connectivity patterns. Students will be challenged with different approaches to their movement style and asked to find complexity and application within their own practice and technical facility.

I view this course as a practice of exploration, vulnerability, communal support, risk-taking, and choice-making. Technique class is not only a physical practice but also a mental practice in which we develop connections and relationships between body and mind. One of the ultimate challenges is to practice finding solutions and approaches to understanding movement and style within your own body. This might and should challenge your own proclivities and how you find logic within your body connections when moving in unfamiliar ways.

As an upper level technique class, I will challenge you to master increasingly complex material in order to more deeply understand Body, Effort, Shape, Space, and Time. I expect a mature approach to class where you take authority and investigation into your movement, with a deeper understanding of what you are taking away from each experience. You are expected to take individual responsibility for your own growth by the questions you ask in class, where you place yourself in class, and how feedback is initiated and received. I look forward to this semester with all of you and the growth we will share as individuals and as a community. Let's groove!

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The Student will:

- Challenge the body and mind with new movement vocabulary, involving personal risk taking
- Find a multi-faceted core center and explore movement and approaches that will strengthen the core and assist in more dynamic and three-dimensional movement
- Find a sense of breath to aid in their movement and assist with flow
- Apply breath, core-distal, head-tail, upper-lower, body-half, and cross-lateral body connectivity to movement to find a more dynamic approach
- Develop a deeper understanding of one's body in relation to space and impetuses for movement.
- Make individual artistic decisions throughout phrases in class that help the student grow into a thinking dancer and performer
- Foster a sense of community and belonging within the classroom
- Set personal goals and check in throughout the semester to see if those goals have been met or if they are changing/evolving
- Develop artistry, individuality, and a sense of community

TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS:

There is no required text that must be purchased for this course; however, students will receive reading material from the instructor via Moodle throughout the semester.

Please: NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, DRINK, OR CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN DANCE STUDIOS AT ANY TIME. The only shoes that are permitted in the 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 must **never** be worn on the Marley floors.) Please be considerate of leaving an accessible walkway in front of the studio doors (not piling up shoes on the mats.)

NOTE: **Lockers** are available for any student. The School of Theatre and 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: details TBA.

At this time, the wearing of masks is optional in our studios. Please be flexible and understanding as this, or any of our policies may change over the course of the semester.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DANCE CLASSES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING DANCE CONCERTS:

- ***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

Plus one of the following:

- ***Bare Bait Dance's Missoula Roadshow*** – September 9, 10, 11
 - Free! 3 amazing locations! Each day a different venue
<https://barebaitdance.org/roadshow2022>
- ***Bare Bait Dance's Guest Performance Residency: RED*** – October 28 - 30
 - Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/red> \$22 student ticket

- ***Bare Bait Dance's Hello Winter!*** – November 26 – December 4
 - Westside Theatre <https://barebaitdance.org/hello-winter> \$22 student ticket
 - Also available streaming beginning Dec 5. \$10 ticket

Other events you can (and should) attend for fun!

- Dance Production **Auditions:** Thurs. Sept 1 at 6pm in PARTV 005 – everyone welcome!
- UM School of Theatre & Dance additional Mainstage/Studio Series shows – live!
 - <https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/season/default.php>
 - *Cabaret* (October 13-16 and 20-23)
 - *The Call of the Wild* (November 10, 12, 13, 17-20)
- Montana Repertory Theatre productions: www.montanarep.com

ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICY – DANCE TECHNIQUE

Attendance is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, watching a film of the dance or reading about it in a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss.

The Dance Faculty EXPECTS STUDENTS TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, students are permitted the equivalent of 1 week of absences. Given the content of a dance class, no makeup work can be done when a student is absent.

AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR PERMITTABLE ABSENCES, YOU WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL ABSENCE.

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, will be asked to observe the entire class time.

GRADING: Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason, we do not have a point breakdown, but rather general guidelines.

To receive an "A" you must:

- show signs of aptitude for dance technique
- have an energetic, attentive attitude
- progress over the semester
- be at the top level of the class, and, of course,
- fulfill the attendance, critique, and exam requirements

***Please refer to the Dance Program Technique Criteria Guidelines**

You will receive an "F" if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an "F." Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+, etc.). Students may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if

there are exceptional circumstances, *that have been discussed in advance, and at length with the instructor.*

Grading Criteria

Development, improvement, and personal artistry (65%)

Concert Attendance (20%)

Mid-Term Check In (5%)

Final Reflection Assignment (10%)

- Development, improvement, and personal artistry (65%): will be based on the above stated objectives of this course and the Technique Criteria I-IV guidelines.
- Concert Attendance/Analysis (20%): This assignment gives students the opportunity to practice their analytical skills they have developed throughout this course. Please refer to concerts you are required to attend above ("Concert Attendance").
- Mid-Term Attendance (5%): Student will meet with instructor of the course to talk about their goals, participation, and feedback moving forward into the semester.
- Final Reflection Assignment (10%): Students will complete a final reflection assignment given at the end of the semester .

There will be no final exam for this course

Grading Scale

A 100-94

A-93-90

B+ 89-87

B 86-84

B- 83-80

C+ 79-77

C 76-74

C- 73-70

D+ 69-67

D 66-64

D- 63-60

F 59-0

Land Acknowledgement

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

PERSONAL FEEDBACK/OFFICE HOURS:

I will gladly meet and discuss class feedback and any issues/concerns you may have. If my office hours do not fit with your schedule, please email me at brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu to set up a different time.

SYLLABUS CHANGE NOTICE:

This syllabus is a working document and is subject to change based on the needs of the class and instructor. Students will be informed of all changes made to the syllabus.

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.

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/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 return to full in person learning this semester. The Office of the President urges every member of the UM Family to get vaccinated 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.

From the EO/AA Office:

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 the Office for Disability Equality (ODE). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>.

STATEMENT OF EMPOWERMENT

The School of Theatre and Dance 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.

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. 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.

