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DANC 494.01: Junior / Senior Dance Seminar

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DANC 494-01 (crn: 74110)
Junior/Senior Dance Seminar
M/W 9:30-10:50am
Location: LA 207

Syllabus and Course Requirements
Professor: Joy French – joy.french@umontana.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only

Goals and Objectives

This course, designed for juniors and seniors, prepares dance majors for careers in the professional world. Students will clarify and articulate why they are dancing and consider what they might do with it after graduation. Students will further develop their verbal, written and research skills and learn about employment options in the professional dance/movement world. The course will require students to write frequently for diverse purposes and audiences, and provides students with tools for effective writing and editing. **This course is an upper division writing course for the dance major.**

Course Topics

- Career Options
- Belief Systems
- Marketing
- Funding
- Promotion for Dance Performances
- Self-promotion
- Professionalism
- Advocacy
- Dance in Education
- Budgets
- Business of Dance Companies
- Business of Dance Schools/Studios
- Grant Writing
- Getting a Job/Supporting oneself
- Graduate School/Higher Education
- Starting on a new path after graduation

Outcomes

1. Students will identify and develop new questions relevant to the dance profession.
2. Students will expand their research sources and learn to find and evaluate information from diverse sources.
3. Students will be exposed to multiple perspectives of the professional world from the standpoints of teaching, coaching, choreography, performing, fundraising, marketing, promotion and education.
4. Students will learn to adopt the appropriate voice when contacting, for example, potential employers, communicating with media, potential funders, audience members, or when writing grants or presenting to school principals, in order to ensure effective communication to many different entities.
5. Students will develop tools for re-drafting and editing written work.
6. Students will learn the conventions of citation and documentation in the dance field.
7. Students will develop digital literacy through documentation of their work in a final portfolio.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to be at every class.

- If a class is missed, students are expected to get the missed notes from a fellow classmate and to find assignment information on Moodle.

Expectations

- You will do the required assignments.
- You will participate constructively and thoughtfully in class discussions.
- You will use library sources effectively and evaluate sources and material that is suitable to the course. Tammy Ravas, fine arts librarian is available to assist with library questions.
- You will hand in assignments at the beginning of the class at which they're due or by the time designated if turned in online. Failure to do so will earn you an "F" for that assignment. Assignments turned in late will be deducted 10% each day late.
- Re-writes of assignments will be due one week from original due-date

Assessment

The majority of the requirements for this class are assessed via writing. Written work is expected to be thoughtful and thorough and should accomplish the job they are intending to do. Papers will be graded using a conventional writing rubric, evaluating four categories: Organization, Conventions, Voice and Effect, and Development & Balance. Students will actively practice generating and organizing ideas, drafting, redrafting, revising and editing. This is a "W" (writing) class. You will be given individual instruction and feedback about your writing.

Writing Techniques

- Try to write a draft with enough time to leave it and come back to it, to see it in a new light.
- Write draft and re-draft and then edit. Be equally comfortable in the role of writer and then editor— at different times.
- Proofread all written assignments —slowly and backward.
- Show your paper to someone else to read and look for grammar, spelling, and punctuation or ask if it makes sense.
- Read your paper out loud to yourself and someone else. — this is incredibly helpful!
- Have someone else read your paper out loud to you.

Grades for papers will generally follow this progression: Excellent (A), good (B), good enough (B-C+), re-do (C and below). Students may be asked to re-draft and re-submit papers at the professor's request.

Redrafted grades will split the difference between the two papers unless the final rewrite paper is 100%.

- For example, if a student originally earns a 4/10 and then their redraft is 9/10, the final grade for the assignment would be 6.5/10.
- However, multiple redrafts are all allowed/expected with the hope of finishing all assignments at 100%. So, from the example above: if a student originally earns a 4/10 and then their redraft is a perfect 10/10, the final grade for the assignment would be 10/10.

Oral presentations will be evaluated for organization, verbal articulation, content and delivery. Presentations should be well-prepared and professional.

Class participation will be assessed by your depth of listening, constructive participation in class discussion, questions asked and depth of listening.

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.

For Theatre & Dance Students

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 <https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/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.

From the EO/AA Office:

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.

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: <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/>. 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.