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DANC 499.01: Senior Thesis - Creative Research Project

Brooklyn L. Draper

University of Montana, Missoula, brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu

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**University of Montana
School of Theatre and Dance
Senior Creative/Research Project
(DANC 499 - 01)**

**2 Credits Fridays 9:00 am – 9:50 am
PARTV 035
Fall 2022
August 29th-December 9th**

**Instructor: Brooklyn Draper Contact:
brooklyn.draper@umontana.edu
(208)670-0593
Office Hours (PARTV 186):
T/TH: 11:00am-12:30pm
*please email in advance**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

(R-6) Offered autumn and spring. Independent study in choreography or teaching. The student is responsible for setting up the project. An initial proposal, a journal, and a paper are required.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The Senior Project is an independently directed endeavor and in-depth experience that is meant to expand one's knowledge, expertise, sensitivity and ability in a specific area albeit choreography, teaching or research. This project is designed by the student and extends well beyond the typical classroom experience. This course provides an ongoing forum through which students share creative and thought-provoking ideas, questions, solutions and constructive criticism in relation to their Senior Project.

METHODOLOGY

This is a high-level presentation/discussion course designed for upper-class students and is to follow previously completed course/creative work grounded in choreography, pedagogy and/or special topics in dance. Learning devices may supplement the class meetings, including: in class activities, readings, video presentations and discussions of works in progress to aid students in achieving set project goals.

REQUIREMENTS see also School of Theatre & Dance student handbook
<https://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>

The exact dates and parameters of each project will ultimately be determined by the student and their project advisor. Some of the requirements might include: maintaining a journal devoted specifically to this project and maintaining a video or digital log of your process in rehearsal or while teaching. Because the purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity to share the experiences, questions, insights and feedback of the process with peers, it is expected that you will attend classes and provide/participate in feedback and discussion.

CLASS MEETINGS – Fridays, 9:00 – 9:50am PARTV 035

Plan to meet on Friday mornings. There will be occasions where we do not wish to meet as a whole, maybe we have smaller break-out sessions. Format/location will be determined as we go along.

GRADING

Attendance

Grades will ultimately be determined by your project advisor. However, students are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. Only one absence is excusable. Each additional absence will lower the grade 1/3 point (e.g. A -> A-).

Participation

As a portion of this course is designated for presentation, students are expected to attend class prepared to show work, discuss and ask questions regarding the progress of her/his Junior/Senior Project. Additionally, the course is designed to stimulate discussion, feedback and creative problem solving and therefore, students are expected to equally participate in this process.

The project advisor will establish the grading criteria for each individual project. Project grades are generally based on some combination of the project, the paper and supporting documentation. It is important that you speak early in the semester with your project advisor to confirm the timeline, requirements and grading guidelines for your project.

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.