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1-2014

DANC 334.01: Dance History

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University of Montana, School of Theatre & Dance

Spring 2014: **Dance History** 3 credits
34907 - DANC 334 - 01 T Th 9:40-11:00 am GBB 202

Instructor: **Heidi Jones Eggert**
Email: heidi.eggert@umontana.edu

Office: PARTV 186
Office hours: [Mon & Wed 11:00-12:00](#)
[Thurs 1:00-2:00](#)

*In 1980, a well-meaning fundraiser came to see me and said, "Miss Graham, the most powerful thing you have going for you to raise money is your respectability." I wanted to spit. Respectable!
Show me any artist who wants to be respectable. ~Martha Graham*

Course Description

Through reading, lecture and video viewing, the major figures, events and movements of North American and Western European Modern Dance are presented chronologically, with the goal of increasing students' understanding of the driving force behind each choreographer's work, their lineages and their social, political and artistic contexts. Multi-cultural influences and a global view will influence the studies of 20th and 21st century dance.

Course Objectives

- To become familiar with, and be able to articulate the significance of, the major figures and events in American Modern Dance history, and dances of the 20th and 21st centuries
- To be able to analyze and articulate the lineage of stylistic influence
- To be able to analyze and articulate the connections between major trends in Modern Dance and the social, political and visual art movements of their time
- To be able to analyze the connections between the forms of dance you are currently studying and seeing on stage / in film
- To demonstrate your ability to conduct primary research

Course Content

- Acknowledgment of Dance leading to 20th Century
- Emergence of New Dance in America and Western Europe
- Evolution of Modern Dance
 - Pioneers, First generations, Post Modern Dance, Next Wave
 - Including - Judson Dance Theatre, Tanztheatre and more
- Dance in Movies / Dance for Film
- Contemporary Choreographers, domestic and global

Course Requirements

- Group projects with presentations – topics may include (but are not limited to)
 - a geographical inquiry into contemporary dance
 - (re)construct a dance in the style of a particular choreographer/movement
 - dance in movies vs. dance for film
- Research and present a 5-6 page paper on a choreographer whose significant work began before mid-century, placing her/him in the larger context of the artistic and socio/political culture in which s/he lived.
 - First draft due: [March 4](#)
 - In-class peer review: [March 6](#)
 - Brief performance presentation of research: [March 6](#)
 - Final draft due: [March 13](#)

- Research and present a 3-4 page paper on a currently active choreographer of national/international significance, which demonstrates your ability to conduct *primary research*, analyze their dances and conduct interviews.
 - Subject proposals due: [March 13](#)
 - Interview questions due: [March 20](#)
 - Papers due: [April 29](#)
 - Interactive or multi-media Presentations due: [April 24 – May 8](#)

- Live performances – The instructor will provide guidelines for responses to:
 - **Dance in Concert**, March 19-22 (Wed-Sat) 7:30pm, Montana Theatre; general admission \$20, \$16 senior/student, \$7 required students, tickets in the Box Office in the PARTV Center
 - **Wall City News**; April 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:00pm, and 2:00pm on April 26
The Elk’s Stage 112 (Elk’s Lodge: 112 N. Pattee St, Missoula, MT); Tickets: \$13 in advance and \$15 day of show, available at the Downtown Dance Collective, at www.ddcmontana.com, or by calling 406.214.0097. For more information about this show: www.barebaitdance.org
 - *May receive extra credit for*
 - Attending other dance events and writing a short response. Details available on our Moodle site

- **Final – Thursday, May 15, 8:00am**
 - assembly of Modern Dance lineage
 - quick answer and short essay pertaining to class lectures/activities

Expectations

- Students will attend class
- Students will actively participate in discussions
- Students will complete assignments on time
- Students will conduct research and present information with accuracy, thoroughness

Grading

- daily participation 20%
- daily assignments 20%
- group projects 10%
- historical research 20%
- contemporary research 20%
- final exam 10%

* Additional topics/assignments may be scheduled throughout the semester and dates posted may shift at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.