

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Spring 1-2016

### DANC 130A.50: Introduction to Dance

Laurel J. Sears

*University of Montana, Missoula*, [laurel.sears@mso.umt.edu](mailto:laurel.sears@mso.umt.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Sears, Laurel J., "DANC 130A.50: Introduction to Dance" (2016). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 4514.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/4514>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

Introduction to Dance  
University of Montana  
DANC 130A  
3 Credits Online

Contact Information

Instructor: Laurel Sears

Office Hours: By appointment only via e-mail

Course Description

This course introduces dance as a performing art, focusing on modern day western dance forms and their historical development and cultural characteristics. Students will study the history and modern day practice of various dance forms, while composing and recording a series of movement studies that will facilitate their understanding of the dance in performance. Additional course topics include a survey of global dance forms, urban dance forms and culture, concepts in viewing dance, the work of the dance artist in contemporary times, dance as a reflection of society, and trends in social dance. This course is taught online via PowerPoint presentation, discussion forums, and video recordings. In addition, students will be required to physically attend one introductory dance class and two dance performances within the Missoula community.

Course Competencies

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Give a coherent, inclusive definition of dance
- Confidently explain the process of creating movement material
- Delineate the cultural significance of dance as a ritual, religious, social and artistic expression
- Identify individual dance styles and trace their development
- Communicate the experience of viewing and creating dance works
- Identify and thoughtfully describe his or her aesthetic of choreographed concert dance in performance

Required Materials

*Text and Technical Requirements*

**Required Text**

*Appreciating Dance: A Guide to the World's Liveliest Art* 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
by Harriet Lihs

Princeton Book Company

ISBN-10: 0871273187

- Access to internet
- A video recoding device (computer/smartphone/camcorder/iPod, etc.)
- The student is aware of his/her score on the "Online Course Readiness Assessment" at <http://umonline.umt.edu/StudentInfo/readiness.htm>
- A quiet environment with a bit of space to move to make video recordings

- Expect to pay between \$5-\$20 for a community dance class
- Expect to pay between \$8-\$30 to attend a live performance of dance
- No editing software is necessary as students are discouraged from editing together multiple takes of a particular assignment

### Class Calendar

Week 1 Jan. 25-29	Defining Dance	Syllabus Quiz Introductory Discussion Forum Reading Quiz
Week 2 Feb. 1-5	Origins of Dance	Reading Quiz
Week 3 Feb. 8-12	Movement Making	Movement Study #1 Discussion Forum
Week 4 Feb. 15-19	Social Dance	Dance Experience Assignment Discussion Forum (due March 4)
Week 5 Feb. 22-26	Roots of Ballet	Reading Quiz
Week 6 Feb. 29- March 4	The Stage as a Blank Canvas	Discussion Forum
Week 7 March 7-11	Site Specific Dance	Movement Study #2 Discussion Forum
Week 8 March 14-18	Modern Dance	Reading Quiz Dance Aesthetic Research Paper Due
Week 9 March 21-25	Jazz/Musical Theatre	Reading Quiz
Week 10 March 28-April 1	Designing a Movement Study	First Draft of Final Movement Study Discussion Forum
Week 11 April 4-8	SPRING BREAK WEEK	No Assignments Due
Week 12 April 11-15	Dance in the New Millennium	Reading Quiz
Week 13 April 18-22	Defining/Refining	Second Draft Final Movement Study Discussion Forum
Week 14 April 25-29	Responding to Feedback	Discussion Forum
Week 15 May 2-6	Refining and Reflecting	Final Movement Study Complete Final Version Due Closing Discussion Forum 10 pts. Last Day to turn in Dance Concert Review
Week 16 May 9-13 Finals week		No Final

## Assignments

### Discussion Forum Posts, 10 total at 5 points each

After doing the reading assignment, and watching the viewings for the module, students will submit a reflection via discussion forum. The reflection and response is a bi-weekly check in and is a way to synthesize the information in each module.

**Due on assigned weeks, Friday at 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.**

### Movement Studies

A series of 5 movement studies will be recorded by students shared via YouTube (using a private link) to the course site. These movement studies will cover: ritual, sight specific, movement vocabulary, and production. Specific assignments for each video assignment will be in place on the weekly page. The final movement study will require multiple takes that respond to feedback from peers and the instructor. The Final Movement Study is considered one of the final projects in the course. **Due on assigned weeks, Wednesday at 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.**

### Essays

All papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font. All written work is expected to be of the quality worthy of an academic institution written in classic essay format with an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion with in-text citations using AP style guidelines. All papers must be submitted via Moodle by 12 a.m. Mountain Standard Time on the due date.

### Dance Concert Review, Due one week after performance, 15 points

Students will write a 3 page review on either a live dance performance or a full length recording of a pre-approved dance production. Review paper guidelines and performance schedule and can be found on Moodle under Course Information. **Due by Friday May 6.**

### Dance Aesthetic Research Paper, 20 points

Students will write a 3-4 page research paper outlining their personal aesthetic preferences, citing examples from a specific form of dance, with in-text citations from at least four references, including the text for the class.

Students will focus their research on one form of concert dance that is covered in the text. Using specific examples from that form of dance, students will articulate their personal aesthetic preferences in dance. This essay should consider the history and cultural founding of the selected form of dance as well as the current day practice. **Due by Friday March 18.**

### Participation in Dance Class, 5 points

Students are expected to physically attend 1 introductory level dance class that is held in their area. I will provide a list of information pertaining to classes available in your area. If you find a class not on the list, email it to me and I will let you know if it is appropriate or not. If no live in-person classes can be located by the student or instructor, and alternative assignment will be formulated. After taking the class, students will write a reflection based on their experience in the class and turn it in via Moodle.

### Movement Class Considerations

- For the community dance classes, students are expected to wear well-fitted, comfortable clothing. For technique classes, clothing should allow the student to move freely and facilitate viewing of alignment, articulation of the body in space, and movement initiation. For social dance classes, follow dance studio regulations about shoes and appropriate clothing.
- It is expected that students fully participate in all elements of the community dance classes. Enter the space with an open mind, and see what you discover about yourself and movement!

### University of Montana School of Dance Policies

#### 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://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/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/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

#### Safety

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.

#### Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me within the first **two weeks** of class at [laurelsears@umontana.edu](mailto:laurelsears@umontana.edu). The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

#### Drop/Add Withdrawal Dates:

Last to add/withdraw/ or change grading option: September 21, 2015.

### Evaluation of Standard Grading

Syllabus Quiz	5 points
Discussion Forum Posts, 10 at 5pts. each	50 points
Reading Quizzes, 6 at 10pts. each	60 points
Movement Study 1 & 2, 10 pts. each	20 points
First Draft Final Movement study	5 points
Second Draft Final Movement Study	5 points
Completed Final Movement Study	15 points
Dance Concert Review	15 points
Research Paper	20 points
Dance Class Participation	5 points
<u>Total</u>	<u>200 Points</u>