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### DANC 499.01: Senior Thesis/ Creative Research Project

Nicole Bradley Browning

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu](mailto:nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu)

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**University of Montana, School of Theatre & Dance**  
**Senior Creative/Research Project**

DANC 499

Instructor: **Nicole Bradley Browning**  
[nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu](mailto:nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu)

Office: PAR/TV 185  
Office hours: Posted

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To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, more beautiful, more powerful.  
This is power, it is glory on earth and it is yours for the taking.  
~ Agnes De Mille

### **COURSE PURPOSE**

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. Students gain first-hand knowledge of how to organize a dance production.


### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

To provide an ongoing forum through which students share creative and thought-provoking ideas, questions, solutions and constructive criticism in relation to the 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. Students will be mentored toward organizing and producing a Senior Performance of their work.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- **Submit your application and proposal** to your project advisor and to the instructor of record for this course.
  - Feb 3                      first draft to instructor
  - Feb 10                     due to advisor and instructor
  
- **Present work-in-progress as well as final product** throughout the course of the term. Set a timeline to prepare program order, publicity, press release, programs, technical rehearsals and critics for Senior Performance.
  
- **Final Paper** timeline:
  - April 14                  initial draft/outline
  - May 8                      Final draft version 1
  - May 12                    Final paper with materials
  
- The parameters of each project will ultimately be determined by the student and their project advisor. Some of the requirements will likely include:
  -  **Maintain a journal** devoted specifically to this project. Write in it regularly throughout the creative process, documenting your ideas, questions and the feedback received through the

course as well as periodic public showings. This will be submitted along with your final paper due at the conclusion of the semester.

- ✚ **Maintain a video/digital log** of your process in rehearsals or while teaching. This too will be submitted along with journal and final paper.
- ✚ **Provide critical feedback** to Junior/Senior Project class members.
- ✚ **Participate in critiques** when appropriate.

## **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 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.*

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**UM Arts Box Office** will be open Jan 17-May 12, Tuesdays-Fridays from noon-6pm plus one hour before a performance.

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### **Studio Etiquette**

**NO** street shoes are allowed in the dance studio at any time, even carried in-hand. Anyone entering the studio must remove their street shoes **BEFORE** entering and leave them outside the studio. The only shoes permitted in 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 should never be worn on Marley floors).  
for their shoes and other belongings.

**NO** food or drinks (except water in closed bottles) are permitted in the dance studios or theatres.

NOTE: **Locker rentals** are available for any student. The School of Theatre & 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 rented for \$7/one semester or \$13/two semesters through Administrative Associate Sharon Collins ([sharon1.collins@umontana.edu](mailto:sharon1.collins@umontana.edu); PARTV 194).

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### **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>.

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 may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. 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/>.*