DANC 498.01: Senior Creative / Research Project

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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 Junior/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.

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 Junior/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
- Submit your application and proposal to your project advisor and to the instructor of record for this course.
  - Sept 6: first draft to class
  - Sept 13: due to advisor and instructor
- Present work in progress as well as final product throughout the course of the term.
- Final Paper timeline:
  - Nov 15 3:00pm: initial draft/outline
  - Dec 11 3:00pm: final draft version 1
  - Dec 16 noon: 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 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.

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.