

## DCE 200-01: Dance Appreciation, Fall 2009

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Office Hours: By Appointment  
Lecture: in HHP 338, in Studio: HHP 208

### Purpose of course:

To expand awareness of regions and cultures around the globe (and their histories and cultures) through an exploration of their dance forms. The main objective for the course is to provide students with a broad base of knowledge about dance practices, theories, current issues, and choreography—resulting in an appreciation for dance as an expression of geography, history, culture, society, and artistic practice.

### What it entails:

*In class*, our focus will be on the current dance climate of each region we study, using this to investigate history and discuss how history informs the present. We will approach dance through reading, writing, discussion (small and large group,) watching dance recordings and physically exploring both technique and choreography.

*Outside of class*, you will be exposed to important information on each region or era of dance—this info will come in a variety of forms:

- Reading historical information on the region and its traditional dance forms (through pre-lecture notes or readings,)
- Reading articles on theory and contemporary issues in dance, specific to the area or genre we're studying (often accompanied by reading responses or reading question assignments,)
- Watching video clips on traditional and current forms of dance from these areas in order to become more familiar with their aesthetic, values, and cultural foundations.
- Attending two live concert dance performances.

Using all of this info as a springboard, we will then dive into more in-depth discussions on these regions and the contemporary issues and current forms of dance in our classroom and studio sessions.

As you can see, **PREPARING FOR CLASS** will be really important for you to be successful in this course. THERE WILL BE *SOME* LECTURING AND *LOTS* OF DISCUSSION, so you'll need to be on the up and up. Readings, all assignments, and their due dates, are clearly listed on the topical outline, and we will review the calendar together on a regular basis. Your grade will be affected by inadequate class prep.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The Dance Department requires an 80% participation rate to get credit for the course. **You will be permitted THREE ABSENCES without penalty.** These are to be used at your discretion for "necessary" absences (doctor's appointment, illness, sleep deprivation, etc.) 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each absence incurred over 3, regardless of reason. If you miss more than SIX classes, you will be unable to pass and may be dropped from the course. One tardy = half an absence. (A tardy constitutes being more than five minutes late to class or leaving early.)

### → A Few Words on Participation...

I will not be giving an official Participation Grade for each student, however it is not because I do not believe that participating in the course is important. However in my class, “participation” is not always about how much you speak in class, it is about your engagement with the course material and a willingness to experience the course fully—your level of engagement is apparent through your completion of assignments, your attendance, and approaching the course with an open mind.

Your engagement is integral to success in the course, since much of the class period will be centered around discussion and not lecturing. Please see below guidelines for a successful experience in Dance Appreciation.

- A good attendance record
- Contributing to small and large group discussions and all in-class work
- Being “present”\* in the class (classroom and studio portions)
- Preparing for each class
- Completing assignments on time
- Approach class exercises and lectures with an open mind. Unfamiliar topics or exercises may be presented to you in this course that might ask you to (safely) exceed your comfort zone and to engage in discussion, movement and creative exercises with other course members.

\*Things that count as NOT being “present” in class: frequent tardiness or leaving early, poor attendance, sleeping, texting, surfing the internet or playing with your phone, not contributing to small or large group class discussions on a regular basis.

### **MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

*Important notes about WRITTEN assignments:*

- i. I encourage you to base all of your thoughts and conclusions on the material I have presented to you throughout the class (readings, lecture notes, films and video clips, etc.) and I am excited to read each of your individual thoughts/reactions/reflections from the material. However, IF you are compelled to do any kind of outside research and use it in any of your work, (Googling something counts as outside research)-- no matter what, you must CITE YOUR SOURCES! Otherwise, it’s plain and simple plagiarism. No particular citation format is required; as long as you clearly provide info on where you got it and how another person could also reference it, you’re golden.
- ii. Please put your name, the date, and the title of the assignment in a *header* on each assignment you turn in. (If it’s an in-class writing assignment, just make sure your name and date are on each page.)
- iii. Late Policy: I have a 1-week policy for handing in late written assignments. Grading will depend on the quality of the assignment and success of completion, but full credit is not attainable on any late assignments.

*All hard-copy papers must meet the following criteria in order to get full credit:*

- Typed
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- Times New Roman or Arial fonts only
- Regular (or smaller) margins
- A HEADER containing at the very least your name and the assignment # or description (i.e. “Assignment #4” or “Choreography Project Reflection”)

⇒ **Journals, Reading or Video Responses- 30%**

Most of these assignments will be based on work you complete outside of class (readings, viewing film clips, etc) or reactions to class experiences. Some assignments will be presented on Blackboard, and some given as in-class assignments. Be sure to contact me if you miss class, so that you don't miss an in-class assignment. Checking BB regularly is super duper important.

**Grading** for these assignments will be on a 4-point scale—grades will be posted on BB throughout the semester:

4- Shows a clear understanding of the reading or journal prompt, but goes above and beyond just “doing the assignment.” Writer raises questions, thinks critically, and makes connections across the course material. Is well-written and well thought-out.

3- Demonstrates a fairly clear grasp on the material, and sufficiently completes the assignment (response to reading or journal prompt.) Is apparent that student is completing the course work, but doesn't really show thinking beyond the presented material or providing student's own conclusions, questions, or reflections.

2- Completed the assignment (for the most part,) but is not particularly well thought-out. Doesn't show that much time or effort was spent on completing the assignment.

1- Partial completion of assignment, doesn't clearly address the reading or prompt, ideas or content not well articulated.

⇒ **Concert Reviews- 20%**

Based on methods for describing and interpreting dance – learned through our discussions on *The Critical Appreciation of Dances* and lecture/discussions on *Watching and Writing About Dance*—you will write two separate reviews on two dance concerts this semester. *Your attendance to both concerts and completion of the written reviews is required to complete the course.*

On Blackboard, under Writing Examples, are a number of helpful guidelines for writing your reviews. Because the success of your work will be much improved by referencing these items, I will expect you to use them as you plan for and write your reviews.

All reviews must be typed, double-spaced and in twelve point font. Please bring hard copy into class on due date; I do not accept emailed essays unless extenuating circumstances apply.

Each review will be graded as follows: (out of 100% / 100 points)

- Content: 70% / 70 points
- Structure and flow: 20% / 20 points
- Grammar, spelling, use of complete sentences, and proper editing: 10% / 10 points

**Review # 1.** Attend one performance of *Cyrus Art Productions in the UNCG Dance Theater (10/1 or 10/2)* and write a 2-3 page review of your experience. 10%

**Review #2:** Attend one evening performance of the *North Carolina Dance Festival in Aycock Auditorium (11/6 or 11/7)* and write a 2-3 page review on your experience. 10%

You must purchase a student ticket from the EUC Box office (located in hallway between Library and EUC. Hours are 12-5pm, weekdays.) Concerts often sell out, so purchase your ticket in advance.

⇒ **Choreography Projects- each worth 10%, total weight on grade is 20%**

In groups, you will complete two different choreography projects for in-class showings. Full details on the projects, evaluation/grading criteria, and group assignments will be provided to you in class. Planning and rehearsal sessions will be provided to you on the first project in particular, but time outside of class may be needed to successfully complete the project with your group. *Participation in the Group Choreography Project is required to complete this course.*

⇒ **Exam #1- 10%**

- In-class exam on 9/21/09
- Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. May include clips from films watched in and out of class.
- Will include questions from material presented in the course, (information from outside *and* inside class) from the beginning up through the exam date.

Exam will be graded out of 100% / 100 points.

⇒ **Exam #2- 10%**

- In-class exam, date TBA.
- Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. May include clips from films watched in and out of class.
- Will include questions from material presented in the course, (information from outside *and* inside class) from Exam #1 forward.

Exam will be graded out of 100% / 100 points.

⇒ **Exam #3 - 10%**

- In-class exam, during the final exam period (Wednesday 12/9/09, 3:30-6:30pm)
- Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. May include clips from films watched in and out of class.
- Will include questions from material presented in the course, (information from outside *and* inside class) from Exam #2 forward.

Exam will be graded out of 100% / 100 points.

**UNCG Final Exam Calendar:** <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/examCal/Fa09.html>

**GRADING SCALE:**

97-100 =A+	73-76 = C
93-96 = A	70-72 = C-
90-92 = A-	67-69 = D+
87-89 = B+	63-66 = D
83-86 = B	60-62 = D-
80-82 = B-	59 = F
77-79 = C+	

## **DEVELOPING A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT—Our Agreed-Upon Class Rules (Mine & Yours)**

- Laptops will only be allowed during specific class times designated by instructor (this will be very minimal, if at all)—basically, time in class will be laptop-free.
- We should show the utmost respect to *everyone* in the learning environment. We will be open to different/new points of views, lifestyles, and ideas.
- We are allowed to eat in class, as long as it is not disruptive to others... and as long as we clean up after ourselves!
- Try to avoid being late or leaving early, it's a disruption to your classmates and your instructor. Being late can happen to the best of us, but habitual lateness is no fun for anyone.
- Please turn all cell phones to vibrate or silent. They also disrupt the learning environment.