

**UNC Greensboro Department of Dance
Course Syllabus**

COURSE NUMBER: 255

COURSE TITLE: Production Practicum I

CREDITS: 1:0:3

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES: none

FOR WHOM PLANNED: required for all undergraduate dance majors

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: R. Mitchell Fore
HHP318; 334-3263
rmfore@uncg.edu
office hours daily 10-11am and by appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Supervised experience in introductory level technical production work supporting dance performances.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will learn, as assigned, skill sets inherent in one or more of the following roles: stage manager, assistant stage manager, lighting operator, sound operator, videographer, stage hand. Mastery of these skill sets will enable students to serve as productive members of a running crew for a modern dance concert.

TEACHING STRATEGIES: Primary instruction occurs during individual and small group work in a rehearsal environment; small group discussion with instructor and peer feedback.

EVALUATION METHODS AND GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS: Course assignments correspond with production crew duties for each concert produced by the Department. Grades are based upon a formula which multiplies hours worked times "quality points" on a scale similar to the one used to calculate GPA: 4 points for excellent or "A" work, 3 points for very good or "B" work, 2 points for satisfactory or "C" work, and 1 point for marginal or "D" work. Final grades in the class are earned according to the following scale:

A	115 points or more	B	80-114 points
C	60-79 points	D	40-59 points

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS/REFERENCES: UNC-Greensboro Department of Dance Production Handbook (in-house publication, available online)

TOPICAL OUTLINE: Per Departmental Production Calendar.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Students' work is of necessity their own because of the performance nature of the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances of the assigned crew.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: Given the linkage of coursework to public performances, it is impossible to "make up" a missed crew assignment. In unusual circumstances, alternate production assignments may be substituted for missed work.

DANCE 255/355 – Production Practicum – Fall, 2009

Amid all the other frenzies of beginning a new school year, it's also time to plan Production Practicum work for the fall semester. Posted nearby are schedules and forms which will help that happen.

Review the planned schedules for this semester's concerts, then complete and return one of the crew forms by Friday, 28 August.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!!!

Our first event is Frank Vulpi's annual concert on Thursday, 03 September, with a rehearsal the evening before. Only two or three crew members are needed for this event. Contact M. Fore (**preferably in person**) during the first week of classes if you wish to be part of that crew. (It isn't listed on the crew form.)

Most of the business of DCE 255 and 355 is handled through Blackboard and UNCG email. I'll post crew lists during the second week of classes, both on Blackboard and the main Departmental board; you'll get an email from me when this occurs. Apart from the face-to-face contact during rehearsals and performances for your particular crew, our primary means of communication is via email. **Be sure to check your UNCG email on a regular basis!**

THE CREWS

Most of our running crews need eight members. We have six concerts this fall plus two special events. Pay particular attention to the planned production schedules. **Once you have your crew assignment, don't let yourself get scheduled for other rehearsals during these times!**

Some crew jobs require specialized skills. Notably, lighting and sound operators are called upon to work with sophisticated and complex equipment. Lighting and sound operators and stage managers may be required to participate in an advance training session to gain familiarity with equipment and procedures. These sessions will be arranged once crew assignments are made.

NC DANCE FESTIVAL IN AYCOCK

We present one event each semester in Aycock Auditorium: the North Carolina Dance festival in the fall and Faculty Concert in the spring. There will be special work sessions to accomplish our load-in and setup for NCDF in November apart from the traditional crew schedule. When these are arranged, I'll send out recruiting email. This is a type of production experience we don't generally offer; if you have an interest in stage lighting, I'd encourage you to sign on. **Pay particular attention to the fact that NCDF crew members will be needed for much of the day on Friday and Saturday, November 06 and 07!**

GRADING

University guidelines equate 45 hours of laboratory or studio work with one academic credit. On average, crewing a concert requires somewhere between 20–30 hours. (The Alumni Concert is an exception since it's a one-day event with only two prior rehearsal evenings.) In addition to completing traditional crew assignments, students can collect additional production hours as ushers (watch for signup sheets), publicity assistants (see Katie Fennell), or for concentration in a particular area of production work (lighting, audio, video, costumes) arranged individually (see M. Fore).

Documentation of these additional production hours is essential! Use the forms posted for this purpose. **Make sure each one is signed by the appropriate supervisor.**

Grading in the class is complicated by the wide range of production requirements which accompany our various performances. Grades are based upon a formula which multiplies hours worked times "quality points" on a scale similar to the one used to calculate your GPA: 4 points for excellent or "A" work, 3 points for very good or "B" work, 2 points for satisfactory or "C" work, and 1 point for marginal or "D" work. Thus, someone with 30 hours of "very good" work would amass 90 points. Basic punctuality and acceptable diligence will receive 3 quality points. If you aspire to excellence (and we all should), you must first be "proactive" in arranging your coursework (this includes timely completion of requisite paperwork, and timely confirmation of email correspondence regarding your crew assignments; **you can't earn an "A" in the class without tending to these basic tasks!!!**). You should also be prepared to "go the extra mile," be enthusiastic, and work effectively with other members of your crew.

To reiterate, you must do the following to be eligible for an "A" in Production Practicum, no matter your point total:

1. complete introductory paperwork (the crew form)
2. respond to course-related email in a timely manner
3. complete the crew assignment you accept

You will earn your final grade in the class according to the following scale:

A	115 points or more	B	80–114 points
C	60–79 points	D	40–59 points

Okay. We're off and running. Contact me with questions.

M. Fore
x 43263 or 45570
rmfore@uncg.edu

DANCE 255/355 – Production Practicum – Fall, 2008

Here are our planned running crew schedules for the fall semester. Times may change; dates should not. There may be additional hours available during the concert period to take care of production notes, etc. These will be arranged on a concert-by-concert basis.

VULPI CONCERT

(Contact M. Fore immediately if you wish to work this event!)

Wednesday, 03 September	7–10pm	crew meeting/orientation/setup
Thursday, 04 September	7–10pm	performance

ALUMNI CONCERT (Note daytime hours on Saturday!)

Thursday, 25 September	7–9pm	crew meeting/orientation
Friday, 26 September	6:45–11pm	rehearsal
Saturday, 27 September	9am–5pm	rehearsals
	6:30–10pm	Alumni Concert performance

NORTH CAROLINA DANCE FESTIVAL (Note daytime hours Wednesday and Thursday!)

ALL NCDF ACTIVITY OCCURS IN AYCOCK AUDITORIUM

Monday, 13 October	7–10pm	tour/orientation/setup
Tuesday, 14 October	6:30–10pm	rehearsals
Wednesday, 15 October	8:45am–5:30pm	rehearsals
	6:30–10pm	performance
Thursday, 16 October	8:45am–5:30pm	rehearsals
	6:30–10:30pm	performance and strike

CYRUS ART PRODUCTION

Sunday, 02 November	7–10pm	crew meeting/orientation/lighting
Monday, 03 November	6:45–11pm	lighting rehearsals
Tuesday, 04 November	6:45–11pm	technical rehearsal
Wednesday, 05 November	6:30–11pm	dress rehearsal
Thursday, 06 November	6:30–10pm	performance
Friday, 07 November	6:30–10pm	performance
Saturday, 08 November	12:30–4pm	performance
	6:30–10:30pm	performance and strike

JOHN GAMBLE DANCE THEATRE

Sunday, 16 November	7–10pm	crew meeting/orientation/lighting
Monday, 17 November	6:45–11pm	technical rehearsal
Tuesday, 18 November	6:45–11pm	technical rehearsal
Wednesday, 19 November	6:30–11pm	dress rehearsal
Thursday, 20 November	6:30–10pm	performance
Friday, 21 November	6:30–10pm	performance
Saturday, 22 November	6:30–10:30pm	performance and strike

DEPARTMENTAL CONCERT

Sunday, 30 November	7–10pm	crew meeting/orientation/lighting
	NOTE: This is the Sunday at the end of Thanksgiving break!	
Monday, 01 December	6:45–11pm	lighting rehearsals
Tuesday, 02 December	6:45–11pm	lighting rehearsals
Wednesday, 03 December	6:45–11pm	technical runthrough
Thursday, 04 December	6:30–10:30pm	dress rehearsal
Friday, 05 December	6:30–10pm	performance
Saturday, 06 December	12:30–4pm	performance
	6:30–10:30pm	performance and strike