



Department of Dance and Theatre
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Fall 2023

Appreciation of Dance as a Contemporary Art Form

Thursdays: 6:00pm - 8:50pm

Location: WH 122 (Wooten Hall)

Instructor: Emi Matsushita

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DATH Office Phone: 940-565-1121

Office hours: By appointment. Zoom or in-person (in DATH 103J)

Course Description:

This course primarily explores the aesthetics of dance as an art form. It also examines many components that go into creating a dance, including investigating the dancer-artist, the dancer-body, the 'business' of dance, and the artistic practices and methods used to create art from moving bodies. There is emphasis placed on the development of an appreciation for dance as a form of communication, connection, and as a reflection of contemporary society through the lens of dance in the 20th and 21st centuries. This course includes lectures, films, digital mediums, and live performances, group discussions, as well as written and verbal critical analysis. The course is 3 credit hours.

Course Reading:

No required reading. Supplemental readings will be assigned and provided by the instructor as the course proceeds.

Required Materials:

-Anything to take notes during class lectures and discussions. (i.e., notepad & pen, tablet, etc.)

Recommended Materials:

-laptop/tablet for occasional use in class sessions (such as research)

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to develop an informed, critical understanding and appreciation of the art form of dance in its most current context. These critical skills will be cultivated through the study and observation of a sampling of its various forms such as ballet, contemporary, social & cultural dance, improvisation/freestyle, jazz, modern, and tap. With each dance form investigated, a brief study of its history will be conducted to provide context. Utilizing a wide range of sources to observe dance forms including digital, live performance, and literature, students will be able to identify unique characteristics and aesthetics of movement across different genres and mediums. Consideration will also be made to understand the art-making process in dance, looking at all the components (producer, choreographer, dancer/performer, etc.) in the development of a production. As a result, a student will be able to confidently articulate specific and informed language when observing, analyzing, and enjoying dance to reflect their growing knowledge and understanding.

In addition, an examination into dance's relationship to the greater society and culture will be conducted. This will include exploring dance's historical significance to society and cultures, its current role, and dance in the greater economy. Attention will also be given to the developing impact that is being actively shaped by current and emerging dance artists. A brief look into what constitutes a healthy, successful dance artist and the different career opportunities that exist will also be investigated.

Classroom Etiquette & Student Expectations:

- Practice respect. Students will participate in a lot of group and in class discussions regarding dance throughout the course. The subjectivity of art alongside varying levels of understanding can create potential friction. As such, it is important to maintain an open space to allow for productive and stimulating conversations that can inform all participants in their learning.
- Come to class prepared. Bring anything that is required for that day (completed assignments, readings, necessary materials, etc.). Turn off your cell phones or leave them on silent during class. You are responsible for how you learn in this course so please make the most of this opportunity for yourself.
- Be ready to start class on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late, it will be recorded as a tardy arrival. Three tardies equal 1 absence (See Attendance policy below).

- No food/snacks consumed during active teaching times to minimize distraction. Water bottles and covered drinks are acceptable. A short break will be provided during class where some food/snacks can be consumed per instructor's discretion. {DO NOT LEAVE TRASH IN THE ROOM}.
- Remain open-minded, positive, and eager to learn. Reaching the course objectives successfully (and beyond) will rely on your own attitude and mindset each time you come to class. Be an active participant; take notes, ask questions, contribute to discussion, and allow space to support others in their learning.
- Check email or Canvas regularly to stay updated on any last minute updates, notices, or etc regarding the course.
- Uphold professionalism at all times. This is a university level learning environment and as such, you are expected to remain professional in all facets of the course. Show up in a way that exhibits the serious investment you have in yourself. Additionally, as dance is an art form based on the body, there will be moments when observing dance where performers may have less clothing than is typical. It is important to continue to approach any performance of a moving body with a lens of maturity, discretion, and appreciation. *Note: if a student is easily offended by nudity or other elements that could be potentially offensive (i.e.- uncensored song lyrics, highly political/divisive messaging, suggestive themes, sexuality, etc), it is highly recommended to drop the course.*
- Exhibit appropriate behavior in communication and correspondences (i.e, email or in class). Maintain clear, concise and appropriate language. No emojis or slang words. Be sensitive of sharing private information.
- If any issues arise for any reason, please reach out to your instructor to remedy the situation as soon as possible.

Required Live Performances:

A significant component of this course is to observe live dance performances in the DFW metroplex. Accordingly, **attendance to all (4) performances is mandatory and cannot be made up** (on rare occasions, an alternative performance may be observed if coordinated with the instructor beforehand). Students will be expected to coordinate their own travel to and from the events. Please be mindful of transit time and potential traffic, locating parking, additional parking fees (\$5-\$15), and appropriate dress codes for each performance. The ticketing fees of the performances are covered by student course fees; there is no need for additional payments.

It is expected that the students treat the live performances as an extension of classroom teaching. The same rules of etiquette and expectations will be upheld. It is encouraged that students bring note-taking materials/devices to assist in recording any thoughts/impressions of the performance between pieces. Typically, any recording of the actual performance is **not** allowed in most venues.

Students are required to show up and check in with their instructor at least 1 hour prior to the show. Tickets will be handed out by the instructor at check-in. If you miss check-in, tickets may be picked up from the box office under the name of the instructor. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of your arrival at the earliest opportunity. Some shows may not allow you to be seated late. The general rule is: **it is better to show up early than on time.**

Additional Live Performance Etiquette (for formal performance venues):

- Turn off cell phones or put on DO NOT DISTURB mode during the show.
- Do not use your cell phone flashlight to take notes during performance pieces.
- NO pictures or videos are permitted.
- NO talking during performances.
- Remain in your seat for the performance. If needed, wait until intermission to get up.

The live performances for this season include:

O TBD→ SEP 7 (TH): **Bridges Collaboration Festival Tech Rehearsal**

@ Frisco Discovery Center, details TBD

O October 7th (SAT): **ILuminate**

@ Coppell Arts Center, Arrive by 6:30 PM, Showtime: 7:30 PM

O October 22nd (SUN): **Step Afrika**

@ Eisemann Center (Richardson), Arrive by 6:30 PM, Showtime: 7:30 PM

O Dec 1 (FRI): **UNT New Choreographers' Dance Concert**

@ University Theatre (RTVFP), details TBD

O Dec 8 (FRI): **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**

@ Winspear Opera House, Arrive by 7:00 PM, Showtime: 8:00 PM

**additional dates/times for set performances may be added to accommodate for the class size and needs.*

Course Evaluation Procedures:

Daily Participation:

Daily class participation is mandatory and highly encouraged. Your willingness to fully engage, work hard consistently, and take responsibility will be a critical factor in your learning. In order to achieve the course objectives, the expectation is that you will consistently work to observe and uphold classroom etiquette, student expectations, and thoroughly complete assignments.

Daily Participation includes:

- o Attending required performances as dictated by instructor (in syllabus)
- o Observing dance works (live or via class instruction) with respect, openness, and curiosity
- o Partaking in any practical application of taught topics, concepts, techniques, etc.
- o Actively listening to presentations by instructor or peers, taking notes if needed
- o Contributing to classroom discussions on topics (sharing insights, asking questions, etc.)
- o Participating actively in any required group work, each member of the group holding equal weight in contributions

Assignments:

- o In class assignments- These will be a mix of group and individual work as dictated by the instructor and the content to which it relates.
- o Quizzes (3) will be given to ensure that assigned readings are being maintained and to test knowledge on recently taught topics.
- o Research/Reading will be required as assigned by the instructor throughout the course. These will help inform the students' understanding of a concept to be able to fully engage in class discussions, observe dance with a critical eye, and to increase general knowledge.
- o For assignments that are required via online submission, please note the time it is due by AND the method of submission (via email, Canvas, in person, etc.).

Performance Papers:

A research and reflective paper will be assigned immediately following each live performance. This is to supplement a student's learning experience through the written analysis of observing live performance. The performance papers due will be a required 3-4 pages in length. Content of the papers will emphasize prior taught concepts in class as it relates to the most recent performance attended. There will be a requirement of citing three sources at minimum in these papers in the proper APA format.

Midterm Group Project:

There will be a 10 minute group presentation project required at the midpoint of the term. The topic will be about a specific dance form and will include a critical analysis of a performance in that dance form. Project topics and performances shall be proposed and approved prior to the starting work on the presentation. Despite the group nature of the project, each student will be graded individually and is expected to uphold equal involvement in the presentation. A major portion of the grade will incorporate a peer-grading and self-grading system. There will be time allotted during class hours to support the development and practice of the presentation. This assignment is worth 30% of your total grade.

Final Project: Research & Reflection Paper OR Video Submission

In lieu of a final exam, students have a choice for a final project submission. Students may either write a 3-4 page research & reflection paper OR create a video of a research & reflection presentation (minimum 5 min long, maximum 10 min long). This final project will mostly serve as the students' informed reflection of one the final performances observed. By the end of the semester, it is assumed that the student will have developed a critical eye for dance and will thus be able to accurately communicate their thoughts, supported by credible external sources. This paper should cover the concepts taught in class and utilized in a way to thoroughly analyze the observed final performance. It is required that the student cite 5 sources (minimum) in APA format to fortify their thoughts and submit alongside chosen submission. This assignment is worth 30% of your total grade.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities to receive extra credit via further engagement with dance outside of the formal coursework. Opportunities will be posted in Canvas. Some of these extra credit opportunities include attending a dance/movement class or an extra curricular performance (one that is not part of the mandatory course performances).

Grading Breakdown	Grade Weight (%)		Grading Scale	
Daily Participation (attendance, in class & live performances, in class discussions)	10%		100-90%	A
Assignments: Quizzes, required reading/research, 'homework', performance papers	30%		89-80%	B
Midterm Group Project & Reflective Paper	30%		79-70%	C
Final Project: Research & reflective Paper/Video	30%		69-60%	D
TOTAL:	100%		Below 60%	F

**It is recommended that you keep your graded work throughout the semester. This is in case there are discrepancies with any grade records. Progress reports will be given periodically.*

Late Work Policy:

No late work is accepted. However, in exceptional cases due to injury/illness/emergency, assignments can be made up with permission from the instructor. Requests for make-up work must be made within 1 week of absence. Technical issues are not a valid excuse for missing a deadline.

If absent from class, the student is expected to learn all missed material before returning to class. In the case of an unexcused absence, **no** accommodations will be available for make-up work. For an excused absence, it is imperative that the student submit documentation within 1 week of the absence. Approved documentation can include a note from a doctor, family member, coach, school official, etc; it must be someone *other than the student* vouching for the absence. It is the instructor's sole discretion to determine if the absence is valid and acceptable for makeup reasons (instructor will abide by UNT Policy 06.039 regarding excused absences). In anticipation of an absence OR following an absence, the instructor should be notified at the latest within 24 hours **after** the absence with the intention of making arrangements for makeup work. The student will then coordinate with the instructor to create a plan to make up the missed work.

Attendance Policy:

- Because of the significance of class participation on the learning objectives of this course, daily attendance is extremely important.
- Roll will be called each class or on occasion, a sign in sheet will be utilized to record attendance. Signing in for another student on these sheets will not be tolerated.
- Students are permitted two (2) unexcused absences for the duration of the course. On the third absence, a student's overall grade will be lowered by 20%; for example, an 80% becomes a 60%. On the fourth absence, **a failing grade** for the course will be assigned to the student. As mentioned in the late work policy, a student can **ONLY** make up any missed assignments or examination at full weight when the absence is excused (see UNT Policy 06.039 regarding excused absences). If an absence is excused, the required documentation from verifying sources (doctor, school official, coach, etc.) should be submitted within 1 week of the absence **AND** the instructor should be informed of the absence and plans to make up work within 24 hours of the absence. An excused absence that has been verified by the instructor shall have no direct affect on the student's grade, bearing that all missed assignments have been made up.

Sickness/Injury Policy:

- o If a student is sick and cannot attend class, they are responsible for informing the instructor as soon as possible. Additionally they must provide satisfactory evidence to substantiate the excused absence and turn it into the instructor within 1 week of the absence (i.e., a doctor's note).
- o If an injury or a condition/illness prevents a student from participating fully in course activities, it is still required for the student to be present for class. To be considered active in class participation, the student must still take part in as many aspects of the class as possible. The instructor may determine to give the student additional assignments to compensate for any reduced participation.

Tardiness & Early Departures (Classroom):

- Students are expected to show up prepared to start class on time. Anyone who is **more than 10 minutes** late will have their tardy documented and counted against them.
 - Early departures from class are not permitted.
 - **Three tardies and/or early departures will equal one unexcused absence**, with the potential to lower a students' grade.
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Cheating/Plagiarism:

NO cheating or plagiarism is allowed. If caught, you will receive a “FAIL” for the assignment and you may be removed from the class! The University upholds a strict policy on academic dishonesty. This can also include falsifying your attendance or misrepresenting work.

Course Calendar Fall 2023

Date	AUGUST
24 (TH)	Introduction to Course. Syllabus Review. -Dance Origins. -Observing Dance as an art form. <i>*in class assignment</i>
31 (TH)	Investigating the Dancer. <i>*in class assignment</i>

Date	SEPTEMBER
7 (TH)	<i>TBD - {NO CLASS}</i> <i>Bridges Collaboration Festival Tech Rehearsal</i> <i>@ Frisco Discovery Center</i> HW: Library Exercise & Dance Scavenger Hunt
14 (TH)	<i>*Class location change*</i> “Dance Appreciation Film Festival” @ DATH Dance Film Viewing (Curated by KnowBox Dance Company)
21 (TH)	-Film Festival Reflection <i>*Quiz #1</i> -Dance Forms I
28 (TH)	-Dance Forms II: “World Dance” & Social forms -Group Work Briefing <i>*Groups assigned for midterm group project</i>

Date	OCTOBER
5 (TH)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance <i>ILuminate</i> @ Coppell Arts Center OCT 7 (SAT) Arrive by 6:30 PM 505 Travis Street, Coppell, Texas 75019
12 (TH)	Performance Reflection/Review. Group Work <i>*Performance Paper #1 Due by 12:00 PM Monday 10/16</i>
19 (TH)	Dance Making <i>*Quiz #2</i>
22 (SUN)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance <i>Step Afrika</i> @ Eisemann Center OCT 22 (SUN) Arrive by 6:30 PM 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082
26 (TH)	↑↑↑*No class due to SUN (22) Mandatory Performance ↑↑↑ <i>*Performance Paper #2 Due by 12:00 PM Monday 10/30</i>

Date	NOVEMBER
2 (TH)	'Midterm' Group Presentation Prep
9 (TH)	'Midterm' Group Presentations
16 (TH)	THANKSGIVING BREAK
23 (TH)	Dance in Physical & Digital Spaces <i>*Quiz #3</i> Final Project
30 (TH)	No class - Mandatory Live Performance <i>UNT Dance: New Choreographers' Concert</i> @ University Theatre DEC 1 FRI Arrival time TBD RTVFP Building

Date	DECEMBER
7 (TH)	No class - Mandatory Live Performance <i>Complexions Contemporary Ballet</i> @ Winspear Opera House DEC 8 FRI Arrive by 7:00 PM 2403 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201
14 (TH)	Final Project Due by NOON DEC 14th (THURS)

****Syllabus & Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity (Policy 06.003)

The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.

Face Coverings:

Although it is currently not required, UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors. This is regardless of vaccination status and with the intention to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Masks are especially encouraged if you are experiencing any symptoms that could potentially put others at further risk. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities (ODA Statement) (Policy 16.001)

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu."

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and

the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward email. (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Course Evaluation (SPOT)

Student feedback is important to help improve the quality of instruction and student experience in their courses. The SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey allows students to submit confidential feedback on their experiences. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Technical Requirements/Assistance:

If you ever have any issues with the technical systems needed to access course resources, correspondences, or for assignment submissions. Please contact the instructor and also the UNT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm> or through email: helpdesk@unt.edu.
Phone: 940.565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Code of Conduct (Policy 07.012):

The University of North Texas is deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of a diverse, global community. The University has established the Code of Student Conduct to promote the wellbeing, honor and dignity of all who live, learn and work in our educational community. The Code of Student Conduct is intended to foster a safe environment conducive to learning and development, as well as to hold students accountable through an educational process that balances the interests of individual students with the interests of the University. Students and student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and upholds the integrity and values of the University community.