



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

Appreciation of Dance as a Contemporary Art Form

Thursdays: 6:00pm -8:50pm

Location: LIFE A204

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 explores the aesthetics of dance as an art form. 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 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 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 the developing impact that is being actively shaped by current 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 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 5 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 may 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, 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.** 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.

Students are required to show up and check in with their instructor at least 45 minutes 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 (i.e., during intermission). 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 February 9th (THURS): UNT Faculty Dance Concert

@ University Theatre, Arrive by 6:45 PM, Showtime: 7:30 PM

O March 31st (FRI): HYPE Showcase – Details TBD

O April 7th (FRI): Greg Maqoma's Vuyani Dance Theatre

@ Moody Performance Hall, Arrive by 7:15 PM, Showtime: 8:00 PM

O May 5th (FRI): *A Midsummer's Night Dream* by Ballet North Texas

@ Moody Performance Hall, Arrive by 7:15, Showtime: 8:00PM

**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 over your learning will be a critical factor in your learning. In order to achieve the objectives in this course, 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 about subject matter.
- o For assignments that are required via online submission, please note the time it is due by AND the method of submission (via email or Canvas).

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 analysis of observing live performance. There will be two performance papers due 3-4 pages in length throughout the semester. Content of the papers will emphasize prior taught concepts in class as it relates to the most recent performance attended. The paper that is assigned following the 2nd and 3rd performances of the semester will focus on prior taught content but will also require a comparison and contrast written analysis of the two pieces. There will be a requirement of citing three sources a minimum in these papers.

Midterm Group Project & Reflective Paper:

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 shall be proposed and approved prior to 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. There will be time allotted during class hours to support the development and practice of the presentation.

Additionally, prior to the presentation, an individual reflective paper (2-3 pgs) will be required for submission. This reflective paper will serve as a summary of the students progress within the group with an emphasis on learning outcomes achieved throughout the project.

Final Project: Research & Reflection Paper:

In lieu of a final exam, students will be required to write a 5-7 page research & reflection paper. This paper will mostly serve as the students' informed reflection of the final performance

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 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) to fortify their thoughts.

Grading Breakdown	Grade Weight (%)		Grading Scale	
Daily Participation (in class & live performances)	10%		100-90%	A
Assignments: In class assignments, quizzes, required reading/research, performance papers	30%		89-80%	B
Midterm Group Project & Reflective Paper	30%		79-70%	C
Final Project: Research & reflective paper	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, assignments can be made up with **prior** permission from the instructor. Technical issues is 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. Additionally, if any in-class assignments are missed due to an unexcused absence, the student can re-take any missed assignments being allotted a maximum high grade of 75%. However, the instructor should be notified within 24 hours of the absence to make arrangements to complete the makeup work. Missed work accrued from an excused absence will also need 24 hour notice to set up arrangements for missed work (maximum grade in this case is 100%).

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. However, only when the absence is excused can the student make up any missed assignments or examination at full weight (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. 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.

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 5 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.

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 Spring 2023

Date	JANUARY
19 (TH)	Introduction to Course. Dance Origins. Observing Dance as an art form.
26 (TH)	Investigating the Dancer. <i>*in class assignment</i>

Date	FEBRUARY
2 (TH)	<i>"Building A Dancer"</i> Documentary & Discussion Performance & Performance Paper Briefing
9 (TH)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance February 9th THURS UNT Faculty Dance Concert @ University Theatre Arrive by 6:45 PM
16 (TH)	-Performance Reflection <i>*Quiz #1</i> -Dance Forms I (codified) <i>*Performance Paper #1 Due by 11:59 PM</i>
23 (TH)	-Dance Forms II (social) -Group Work Briefing <i>*Groups assigned for midterm group project</i>

Date	MARCH
2 (TH)	In class group work <i>*Quiz #2</i>
9 (TH)	Group Project Assessments
14 & 17	<i>Spring Break</i>
23 (TH)	Dance Making
30 (TH)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance HYPE Showcase March 31st (FRI) Details TBD

Date	APRIL
6 (TH)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance Greg Maqoma's Vuyani Dance Theatre April 7th (FRI) @ Moody Performance Hall Arrive by 7:15PM
13 (TH)	Performance Reflection & Analysis <i>*in class assignment</i> <i>*Performance Paper #2 Due by 11:59 PM</i>
20 (TH)	Dance in Physical Spaces <i>*Quiz #3</i>
27 (TH)	Dance in Digital Spaces Final Paper Briefing

Date	MAY
4 (TH)	No class- Mandatory Live Performance <i>A Midsummer's Night Dream</i> by Ballet North Texas May 5th (FRI) @ Moody Performance Hall Arrive by 7:15
8 (MON)	<i>Final Paper</i> <i>Due by Monday MAY 8th at 11:59 PM</i>

*****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.