

**University of North Texas
Department of Theater and Dance**

Spring 2021

DANC 3250 – Choreography III & Laboratory
Monday/ Wednesday 3:30 – 4:50 PM
Dance and Theater Arts Building (DATH) 110 and 111

Instructor: Reyna Mondragon MFA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Hours: by appointment

E-mail: Reyna.mondragon@unt.edu

You may email me at any time. I will respond within 48 hours (except over the weekends).

Course Description & Overview:

The purpose of this course is to address creativity, vision, and craft in making dances. To improve choreographic ability and understanding, we delve into exercises and sources for movement investigation, shape solos and group work from source material, uncover structures that fit the various content, and heighten each dance composition via conscious attention to the moment-to-moment unfolding of a dance. As artists, self-assessment and peer reviews with constructive feedback are also part of the content of this course. Through numerous physical experiences, readings, and viewings, students will engage with skills of observation, movement learning, contextual and comparative analysis, and descriptive and critical communication about dance.

Each student creates (3) choreographic studies in response to a variety of exercises. Students will complete solo and group works, some of which will be presented as part of the final project in an informal performance setting for an audience.

Lab/Studio Credit:

This course meets weekly on Monday and Wednesday. In addition to normal class meetings, this course requires students to also participate in 4 hours of Independent Lab work per week in a UNT dance studio within the times of: Monday - Friday 8 am - 10 pm and Saturday - Sunday 8 am - 5 pm. This time will be used for self-studies and group rehearsals throughout the semester. You are accountable and responsible for your time and out of class studio assignments. **STUDENT MUST ENROLL IN LAB HOURS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS COURSE.**

Students must reserve dance studio space to complete their 4-hr weekly Lab requirement. Requests must be submitted AND approved before the studio is confirmed. UNT Dance and Theatre Room Reservation Link: <https://dathrooms.bookedscheduler.com/Web/index.php?redirect=%2FWeb%2Fschedule.php%3F> You will need to register an account if this is your first time reserving a room with this system. Change the notification settings on your account so that you receive emails when your reservation has been approved/denied/moved. (This needs to be done before the second day of class. During class you will let me know the time you choose and if it was approved.)

Course Prerequisites:

DANC 1250, DANC 2250, DANC 2060

Concurrent enrollment in **Modern Technique Level IV or higher**

Learning Outcomes:

This course will tap into multiple modes of learning, incorporated through movement, physical experimenting, written responses, readings, visual observation, verbal responses and giving & applying constructive feedback.

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

1. Increase the palette of creative approaches to dance making and identify critical frameworks useful for evaluating the impact of one's work
2. Demonstrate an ability to observe and perceive choreography and apply strategies for critical reading and observing dances
3. Heighten verbal and written language, which describes and responds to dances
4. Demonstrate an ability to facilitate, coach, and rehearse dances with others
5. Design and execute varied production tasks in the mounting of a dance performance
6. Demonstrate an ability to work with modern and postmodern music compositions

Exemplary Objectives for Visual and Performing Arts:

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within diverse historical, social and cultural contexts.
3. To engage in a creative process or interpretive act in order to comprehend the physical and intellectual demands required of the author or visual/performing artist.
4. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the arts.

UNT Core Objectives:

1. Gain an awareness of fundamental areas of knowledge and the interrelationships among them.
2. Gain the skills required to explore and test ideas.
3. Have the ability to read intelligently, write clearly and speak well.
4. Value different ideas, perspectives, cultures and viewpoints.
5. Demonstrate personal and social responsibility.

Course Materials and Supplies:

Nagrin, Daniel. *Choreography and the Specific Image: Nineteen Essays and a Workbook*. Pittsburgh, PA: U of Pittsburgh, 2001.

Major Course Assignments and Examinations:

Assignments may include viewing and listening to videotapes and online audio resources.

1. Reading Responses and Discussion: Each week students are expected to bring two reflections, comments, and/or questions, grounded in the assigned reading. These responses will guide our class discussion. The responses will be submitted to the instructor through Canvas and a copy brought to class.

You are asked to engage and interact with the text in order to assert your own agency in our class discussions and in the field of dance.

2. Journals:

- Suggest a blank page (no lines) bound/artist sketchbook. Bring to class everyday.
- Writing in journals for note taking is encouraged during class!
- There will be 5 minutes given for journaling at the end of each class.
- Journaling will also include outside musings and observations from rehearsals & “dailyness” that applies to your creative process.
- Video Journals will be taken during lab hours and submitted through a discussion board “Video Journals”.

3. Each student creates (3) choreographic studies in response to a variety of exercises. Students will complete solo and group works, some of which will be presented as part of the final project in an informal performance setting for an audience. Peer, instructor, and personal feedback will be included in the showing process, in addition to evaluation of concepts presented, ability to use a range of perspectives to generate material and creative choice-making to structure original ideas, evidence of innovative vocabulary, and creative solutions.

4. Students will present adjudicated work in concert and be evaluated on presentation of adjudicated work, production value, work ethic, and professionalism. Students will submit a written analysis of the strengths and areas of opportunity regarding both process and product for one, or possibly two, of the three dance works created. Analysis will reference, but is not limited to, videos of the dance works, strengths and opportunities of process and product, the required and supplemental text for the course, and relevant insights from journal entries, which shed light on the student’s process and product for the dance work(s). Lastly, students will submit Journal entries from the entirety of the semester.

Activities, Assignments, and Grading Policy:

25%	Daily In-Class Engagement: Discussions, Exercises & Choreographic Experiments
20%	Reading Responses
25%	Completion & Evaluation of Studies 1-3
20%	Journal
10%	Performance/Production/Paper

Final Grades:

A = 90%+
B = 89% - 80%
C = 79% - 70%
D = 69% - 60%
F= less than 60%

Class Guidelines:

1. Neat and appropriate dance attire is required for each class.
Dance pants, workout pants, and tops, which allow for freedom of movement are acceptable.
Please do not wear jeans or dress clothes to class. Such attire will compromise your

movement and you will be deducted participation points. A leotard and tights are not required, but are certainly acceptable attire for class.

2. No street shoes in the studio.
3. Keep jewelry to a minimum.
4. No gum chewing, or food in class. You may bring a water bottle. Please turn off cell phones.
5. Please respect your classmates, their creativity, expression, and concentration.

Attendance/Participation Grading Policy for Department of Dance studio classes:

Since performance in studio classes in particular relies almost entirely on work accomplished during each class any absence from class will impact the grade.

- Students are allowed two (2) absences. There are no excused absences except for personal or family emergencies or a UNT official activity, which the professor needs to approve. On the third absence your overall grade will be lowered by 5%; for example, a 90% becomes an 85%. On the fourth absence, you will earn a failing grade for the course. (UNT allows the instructor to ask the registrar to drop a student with a “WF” upon accumulation of the stated number of absences.)
- Students who do not attend the first day of class may be dropped in order to accommodate those who are on the wait list.

VISIBILITY on ZOOM –

- In the Partial & Fully Remote formats, it is important to keep visual engagement for both student and instructor to enable assessment and accessibility throughout each zoom class meeting. This requires full body visibility within the camera frame with top or front light support (not in silhouette). Each time the student is not visible (camera turned off) it will count as an absence. To find information on technical assistance please read below. Please review Materials for Remote Learning Instruction below for further requirements.
- **Lateness and Early Departures:** Remote and Face to Face students should not arrive late to class or ask to leave early. Typically, **(2) tardies and/or early departures will equal one absence. If the student comes in 5 minutes late to class, they are choosing to get 5 points taken off from their daily grade and students arriving more than 10 minutes late for class will not be allowed to take class.**
- **Observations/Sitting Out:** Remote and Face to Face students should request to observe a class only in exceptional cases -- the expectation is that all students will participate even though the level of activity and kind of activity may be adjusted to accommodate specific health issues. If an observation is approved by the teacher, the student will take notes following specific directions given by the teacher. These notes will be turned in at the conclusion of class. The quality of these notes will determine the student's grade for that particular day. Under no circumstances should students' study for other courses during an observation. (Remote students must keep their camera on at all times)
- Typically, *observations are considered one-half absences*, as the student is not fully engaged in the activity or the class.
- Should a Remote or Face to Face student need to sit down during class, they are expected to remain attentive and engaged with the class. Sitting at the front of the studio, watching and learning through attentive observation, or taking written notes is appropriate. Lying on the

floor, sleeping, talking or texting on a cell phone, or engaging in conversation with other students during class is not considered appropriate. No student should be consistently sitting out as it warrants a low-class participation grade. **Typically, ‘sitting out’ two times equals one absence.**

LATE WORK:

Late work is not permitted in this class. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered for extreme extenuating circumstances. Students must speak or email the instructor immediately if they foresee a problem in submitting their work on time.

All required assignments in this course may be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com

MAKEUP WORK:

Only in specific circumstances may the student be allowed to make up an absence. For this consideration communicate with the faculty member at an appropriate time. Do not wait till the last minute.

Additional Information:

Students must have access to UNT’s Canvas platform and UNT outlook (email).

Very Important: Lack of access to a computer or technical problems with a computer is not an acceptable excuse for missing assignments or meeting deadlines.

Plan ahead and develop a backup plan.

-Students must also save a copy of the important course documents and course assignments on their computers or memory stick in the event that Canvas or the UNT web site becomes unavailable.

-Students should use only their UNT e-mail account when communicating with the instructor, classmates, and completing online coursework.

-Students must make a consistent practice of sending a carbon copy to themselves of any email they send out in order to document their work and to keep these in a designated electronic computer folder on their own computer or external drive.

Classroom Policies:

It is expected that you will be respectful, supportive, and tolerant of each of your colleagues in this class. A multitude of topics and images will be presented in class that may cause discomfort and may reflect one’s life, familial, or cultural experiences. When engaging in critical discussions, it is important to be mindful of how our words and body language can impact others. This is also a general life skill that will serve you outside of the academic setting.

No food or drinks in the classroom, besides water in a closed container. Please dress in comfortable, but not baggy clothing. Socks are permitted for warm-up only, but not suggested. Turn cell phone sound OFF when entering the classroom. Phones may be utilized for documenting choreographic experiments and studies.

Materials for Remote Learning Instruction

The UNT spring schedule requires this course to have partially remote instruction . Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or

quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [**webcam, microphone, or device such as phone, tablet or computer, with reliable internet connection**] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [7x7 foot space to move, if possible)]. [Learn more about how to be successful in a remote learning environment](#)

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

Synchronous sessions in this course may be recorded upon students request. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Course Communication:

General Guidelines

- Remember that college communication is still professional communication. Use correct spelling and grammar and always double-check your response before hitting send or reply. Do not use slang and limit the use of emoticons.
- Use standard, readable fonts, sizes, and colors and avoid writing in all caps.
- Use your instructor's title of "Dr." or "Professor," or if you don't know use "Mr." or "Ms." Do not use "Mrs." to address female instructors unless told otherwise by said instructor.
- Be mindful of tone in online communication as it lacks the nonverbal cues of face-to-face communication that provide clarity and context to conversations.
- Respect the personal identities of others based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

- Respect the privacy of yourself, your instructor, and your peers. Keep in mind what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves personal health and/or classroom performance, such as grades.
- Give people the benefit of the doubt. Though there may be a computer between you, there are people on the other side of the screen.
- Do not make assumptions about others' technological skills. Technological skills vary across a variety of factors, including experience, age, culture, etc.

Communicating via Email

- Check the syllabus before asking a question about the course and let the instructor know you checked the syllabus before asking. Instructors put a lot of time into making syllabi as comprehensive as possible for students.
- Use a descriptive subject line to get the instructor's attention. Instructors receive a lot of emails and a descriptive subject line helps them identify student inquiries more efficiently.
- Be concise and to the point.

Discussion Board Communication

- Treat your posts like the professional communication that they are. Use correct spelling and grammar and always double-check a response before hitting send or reply. Do not use slang and limit the use of emoticons.
- Read all the messages in a thread before replying so you do not repeat something one of your peers may have already said.
- Avoid replies such as "I agree" and instead explain why you agree or do not agree.
- Show your work by sharing resources and utilizing citations.
- When disagreeing, do not make personal attacks or use language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR:

WEEK 1 OVERVIEW / INTRODUCTION Choreographer Survey

Reading: Nagrin, Chapters 1

RESPONSE DUE: W 1/20

WEEKS 2-4 UNLEASHING CREATIVITY - STUDY 1 / SOLO (face to face performance) Continuing introduction to philosophy / theory / practice Establishing known comforts and boundaries Stepping outside of the box. Discovering and embracing new realms Application of theory from readings and class experiences / exercises {Multiple versions / adaptations will be presented during class sessions with feedback}

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 2-3

RESPONSE DUE: M 1/25

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 4-5

RESPONSE DUE: M 2/1

STUDY 1 IN-CLASS SHOWING: M 1/25 - Final Showing: M 2/1

WEEKS 5-8 FINDING PLACE and SPACE – STUDY 2 / DUETS (Dance Film) Initiating, developing, and shaping dances that build on the earlier investigations Investigation of choreographic role as visionary and collaborator Choreographer as Communicator

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 6-8

RESPONSE DUE: M 2/8

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 9-13

RESPONSE DUE: M 2/15

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 14-15

RESPONSE DUE: M 2/22

STUDY 2 IN-CLASS SHOWING: M 2/22

WEEK 8 PROPOSAL / AUDITIONS / ORGANIZATION & MARKETING Democracy of decision making / Democracy of dance

STUDY 2 FINAL SHOWING: M 3/1

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 16-17

RESPONSE DUE: M 3/1

****STUDY 3 AUDITIONS: W 3/3, 5:00 – 6:30p // CASTING 6:30-9:30p**

****STUDY 3 PROPOSALS & Journals (MT) DUE: M 3/15**

WEEKS 9-12 ABOVE & BEYOND / STUDY 3 (Site Specific) Deeper investigation into the craft of choreography Honing skills as visionary / communicator Coaching performance

Reading: Nagrin Chapters 18-19

RESPONSE DUE: M 3/15

STUDY 3 IN-CLASS SHOWING: M 3/29 & 3/31

FINAL SHOWING: M 4/5 & W 4/7

WEEKS 13-15 VISION TO LIFE & STAGE / FINAL PREPARATION

Adjudication of studies for final presentation

PRODUCTION / TECH PREPARATION:

Organization & Flow

Marketing

Front of House

Research: Music & Costuming

WEEK 15 PROJECT / PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE

TECH & DRESS: M 4/19, 5-10p [ALL choreographers and cast]

PERFORMANCE: W 4/21, 7p // CALL 5p [ALL choreographers and cast]

WEEK 16 FINAL DUE WEDNESDAY, W 4/28

University Policies:

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation:

https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/16.004_Nondiscrimination.Pub_.pdf The University of North Texas (University) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

An individual who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the incident to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Students may also report such conduct to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty: (<http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.html>): The University takes plagiarism and cheating very seriously. Plagiarized work will earn a zero for the assignment. Students will face action according to University guidelines for academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to submit any paper I suspect of plagiarism to Turnitin.com.

Academic Ethics: (<http://www.unt.edu/csrr0>): Acts of academic dishonesty are subject to discipline at UNT. Cheating plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading information are acts of academic dishonesty. The definitions of these terms are clearly described in the Undergraduate Catalog (www.unt.edu/catalog) and by the Center for Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Authorized Class Absence: (http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/III-a.html): All travel by students off campus for the purpose of participation in UNT sponsored activities must be authorized by the dean of the school or college of the sponsoring department. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the dean of students for instructors.

Absence for Religious Holidays: (http://www.unt.edu/vpaa_fy0708_fhb/III-a.html): A student absent due to the observance of a religious holiday may take examinations/ complete assignments scheduled for the day(s) missed within a reasonable time after the absence. Class participants should notify the instructor via email of planned absences for religious holidays.

Disability Support Services: (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>): ODA Office in Sage Hall, Suite 167.

Office of Disability Accommodation Statement: (ODA)- The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional

information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323

To graduate, students majoring in dance are required to have a minimum grade of “B” in dance technique courses that comprise their major.

COVID RESOURCES :

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

STEPS: o

- o Notify instructors in advance of the absence or inability to participate, if possible.
- o Call UNT’s Student Health Services (940)-565-2333. Proof of evaluation will be provided to the student.
- o Keep up with coursework, as much as possible.
- o Participate in class activities remotely (if able) and submit assignments electronically, to the extent possible and as directed by the instructor.
- o Reach out to the instructor if illness will require late submission or other modifications to deadlines or work requirements.
- o Work with the instructors to reschedule exams, labs and other critical academic activities, when it is necessary.

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PLEASE GO TO THE STUDENT DANCE CALL BOARD AND CLICK ON STUDENT RESOURCES

*To graduate, students majoring in dance and theatre must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in dance courses, make a B in dance technique courses and at least a C in all other dance courses comprising his/her major.

*Students who miss the first day of class without consent of the instructor are subject to be administratively dropped from the course so that other students may be added. Students who must miss the first day of class because of illness or some other acceptable excuse must notify the instructor on record the day of the absence.

***The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.