

**Appreciation of Dance as a
Contemporary Art Form**

DANC 1200.001

Blended course format containing online
components in Canvas and face-to-face
class meetings at four live dance concerts

Fall 2019

University of North Texas

Department of Dance and Theatre Arts

Instructor: Whitney Geldon, MFA

Office: DATH 103G

Office Hours: M/W 11:30 - 12:30 (or by appointment)

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an overarching understanding of dance as an art form with an emphasis placed on the aesthetics of dance as a performing art. Students will discuss classical and contemporary dance forms and its inter-relationship with cultural developments and other art forms. Through a series of readings, videos, discussions, quizzes, and papers, students will be exposed to and learn to appreciate the art of dance as it pertains to various genres, and the role of the performer, choreographer, and audience. This course will consist of historical content as well as current trends. Students will have the opportunity to develop an eye for dance criticism by watching four live dance concerts in the DFW area and composing papers in response.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

None.

COURSE SITE

- Go to **CANVAS**: <https://unt.instructure.com/>
- Enter your login information
- Click the link to this course found under your **My Courses** list

COMMUNICATION PLAN / EMAIL POLICY

Given the nature of an online educational platform, it is essential to establish and follow an effective communication plan. Instructor may be reached via email anytime, with a response within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. During office hours, responses to emails may be more immediate and available for face-to-face meetings. Our course grader will assist with grading and feedback. Throughout the semester we will provide individual feedback on weekly assignments to students in the Canvas Grade Center. Typically, grades will be posted within seven days of the assignment due date. It is important to check for Announcements via Canvas (posted on a weekly basis) that include summaries of material we have previously covered, introductions to upcoming material, class feedback on assignments, deadline reminders, and any other course updates. Discussion Board conversations will also be monitored.

All correspondence from the instructor will be sent to the student's UNT email account. As a member of our online classroom community, it is expected that all students check their UNT

email **daily** and respond to all emails promptly. Students will also be expected to log into the course shell at the beginning of each week and actively engage in any Discussion Board conversations. Homework will never be accepted via email unless permitted by the instructor under special circumstances.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Acquire an introductory knowledge of the history of dance.
2. Examine the development of varied genres including ballet, modern, contemporary, improvisation, jazz, tap, musical theatre, and social dance.
3. Compare and contrast different genres of dance.
4. Develop an appreciation of the aesthetic principles that define dance as an art form.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of dance in social, cultural, and ritual contexts.
6. Develop an appreciation of the nature of art-making in dance and the role of the choreographer and performer as dance makers.
7. Understand the development of a dance production.
8. To understand the concepts for maintaining a healthy dancer's lifestyle as well as career opportunities for the dance artist, educator, and scholar.
9. View dance in a live atmosphere.
10. Begin to develop an eye for dance criticism in holding necessary critical skills to make justified judgments of dance works in varied genres and styles.

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. Critical Thinking: to develop creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, and evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication: to develop effective written, oral, aural and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. Social Responsibility: to demonstrate intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook:

- *Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form & Entertainment* by Nora Ambrosio, 8th edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, ISBN: 978-1-4652-7861-6

Technical Requirements:

- High Speed Internet Access
- Supported Browsers and Operating Systems for CANVAS
- Adobe Reader
- Microsoft Office
- Java
- Adobe Flash

* Further information on technical requirements can be found in Canvas.

REQUIRED LIVE DANCE CONCERT EVENT

Students are required to attend four pre-planned live dance concerts in the DFW area throughout the semester. **Student attendance at these four live dance concerts is mandatory and cannot be made up.** Tickets to these concerts are pre-ordered as part of your course fees. Students are responsible for their own transportation to each of these concerts. Students are also responsible for their own parking; be prepared to pay minimal parking fees between \$5.00 - \$15.00. More detailed information regarding each concert and parking will be provided in Canvas.

All students must meet the instructor in the theater lobby no later than one half hour before the concert start time to check in and receive their ticket. Following the concert, all students must meet the instructor in the lobby to check out. Check in and check out attendance will be calculated into your dance concert paper grade.

Given that driving from Denton to Dallas or Fort Worth can be quite the excursion, especially on Friday evenings, it is essential to give yourself plenty of 'buffer time' to arrive promptly and safely. Expect that there will be heavy traffic and/or construction delays. Expect that locating parking and the theater lobby will take extra time. Plan ahead in order to arrive promptly and safely. 5 minutes prior to the concert start time, the instructor will leave any unclaimed tickets at the box office. If you arrive late, you may pick up your ticket (under the instructor's name) from the theater box office. If the usher allows you to be seated late, be sure to check in with the instructor during the first intermission.

Remember to bring a notebook and pen to each concert for note-taking in between pieces. This will come in handy while writing your papers.

CONCERT DATES

Friday, Sept. 20	Ronald K. Brown - Winspear Opera House	Arrive 7:30pm
Friday, Oct. 25	BODYTRAFFIC - Moody Performance Hall	Arrive 7:30pm
Friday, Nov. 8	Ballet British Columbia - Moody Performance Hall	Arrive 7:30pm
Thursday, Nov. 14	CATS - Music Hall at Fair Park	Arrive 7:00pm

THEATRE RULES AND ETIQUETTE

1. Arrive on time.
2. Wear theater-appropriate attire (no flip flops, exposed midriffs, etc). Your clothing does not need to be fancy, but you should look well-mannered.
3. Turn cell phones off or to 'do not disturb' mode.
4. Do not take photos or video.
5. Remain attentive and respectful during the concert (no talking)
6. Wait for the intermission or the end of the concert to leave your seat. Only in an emergency should anyone leave their seat while the performance is taking place.

PERFORMANCE DISCLAIMER

In the study of dance, it is possible to cover a wide spectrum of movement possibilities, body positions, and revealing of the human body that may be considered immoral, indecent and even obscene to some people. It is the objective of this course to provide a wide spectrum of concert dance during the 20th and 21st centuries. Your instructor will not play the role of "censor". Please

consider this matter carefully. If you are easily offended or very uncomfortable with viewing the human body scantily clad, this class may not be for you. The appropriate time to withdraw is now.

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

In our blended class format, we will combine weekly online units with four face-to-face class meetings at the live dance concerts. **Student attendance at these four live dance concerts is mandatory and cannot be made up.** A class period in a blended course is defined as a week of assignments in Canvas and attendance at the four live dance concerts. Failure to complete any assignment/quiz will result in an absence for the week. While personal issues arise for all of us in the course of a semester, you are required to make an effort to attend class online and work to your full potential. UNT guidelines require students to attend class, follow guidelines, and keep up with class assignments, as attendance and participation are essential to students' success. Please note that low attendance can and will affect your Financial Aid. Attendance and participation records will be kept and updated daily in Canvas. Since each week's work will take a substantial amount of time to complete, it is strongly advised that you use the full week to complete all learning activities and assignments – *do not wait until the weekend to open each weekly folder.*

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is not permitted in this class, including late assignments and quizzes after the deadline has passed. For this reason, it is the student's responsibility to meet deadlines and make sure you see confirmation from Canvas when submitting assignments. Please note, each weekly folder will become available to you online on Sundays at 11:59pm, and most assignments will be due the following Sunday at 11:59pm. Plan accordingly, to not miss any deadlines. It is only under extreme circumstances (with evident proof of an emergency situation) deadline extensions will be considered. **Technical issues will never be considered an adequate excuse for late work.** It is the student's responsibility to give yourself plenty of "buffer time" to submit work, should a technical problem arise.

EXTRA CREDIT

Toward the end of each semester students will have the opportunity to either submit one late assignment OR re-submit one edited assignment for a potentially higher grade. Further details will become available later in the semester.

GRADING INFORMATION

Syllabus Quiz	1%
Assignments	39% (8)
Quizzes	20% (4)
Live Dance Concert (paper & attendance)	30% (4)
Final	10%

Grading Scale:

90-100: A; 89-80: B; 79-70: C; 69-60: D; 59 and below: F

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: August 26 - September 1: *Introductions & Dance as an Art Form*

Syllabus Quiz	Due Sunday, Sept 1
Quiz Week #1	Due Sunday, Sept 1
Assignment Week #1	Due Sunday, Sept 1

Week 2: September 2 - 8: *The Choreographer, Dancer & The Audience*

Quiz Week #2	Due Sunday, Sept 8
Assignment Week #2	Due Sunday, Sept 8

Week 3: September 9 - 15: *Ballet*

Assignment Week #3	Due Sunday, Sept 15
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Week 4: September 16 - 22: *Modern & Contemporary Dance*

Dance Concert #1 – Ronald K. Brown	Friday, Sept 20
Assignment Week #4	Due Sunday, Sept 22

Week 5: September 23 - 29: *Dance Concert Paper #1*

Dance Concert Paper #1	Due Sunday, Sept 29
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Week 6: September 30 - October 6: *Improvisation*

Assignment Week #6	Due Sunday, Oct 6
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Week 7: October 7 - 13: *Dance in World Cultures*

Assignment Week #7	Due Sunday, Oct 13
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Week 8: October 14 - 20: *Jazz, Tap, & Musical Theatre & Social Dance*

Quiz Week #8	Due Sunday, October 20
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Week 9: October 21 - 27: *Dance Production*

Live Dance Concert #2 – BODYTRAFFIC	Friday, October 25
Assignment Week #9	Due Sunday, October 27

Week 10: October 28 - November 3: *Dance Concert Paper #2*

Live Dance Concert Paper #2	Due Sunday, Nov 3
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Week 11: November 4 - 10: *Dance in Education & Careers*

Live Dance Concert #3 – Ballet British Columbia	Friday, Nov 8
Quiz #4	Due Sunday, November 10

Week 12: November 11 - 17: *Dance Concert Paper #3*

Live Dance Concert # 4– CATS
Live Dance Concert Paper #3

Thursday, Nov 14
Due Sunday, Nov 17

Week 13: November 18 - 24: *Dance Concert Paper #4*

Live Dance Concert Paper #4

Due Sunday, Nov 24

**Week 14: November 25 - December 1: *Resubmission Opportunity*
*Thanksgiving***

Resubmission Opportunity

Due Sunday, Dec 1

Week 15: December 2 - 8: *Final Group Project*

Final Group Project

Due Wednesday, Dec 4

Week 16: December 7 - 12: *Finals Week*

(Optional) Final Paper

Due Wednesday, Dec 11

All assignments are due at 11:59pm

GRADEBOOK

All grades are kept in the online gradebook in Canvas. To check your progress at any point, click on the "Grades" tab on the left side of our course shell. Typically, weekly assignment grades will be posted within seven days of the due date, often sooner.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to submit their best possible writing, reflecting critical inquiry into the writing subject and the understanding of how to communicate informed thoughts and opinions. Finished writing should convey the student's clear understanding of proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, word usage, and course vocabulary.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES – NEED HELP?

Please direct all technical issues to the UIT Help Desk:

- Website: <http://it.unt.edu>
- Phone: 940-565-2324
- Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
- Office: Sage Hall, Room 130

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

UNT's Policy of Academic Dishonesty found in the Student Handbook applies to this course. If caught plagiarizing (meaning copying) published sources or another student you will be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and you will also fail this course. This policy also applies if you are caught falsifying your attendance or misrepresenting your work in any way. For your own sake please be sure that you are familiar with the rules and regulations regarding Academic Dishonesty. "The term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to: 1. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished

work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement [or citation] and/or 2. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”

http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/misconduct.html

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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 for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by 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.

<http://disability.unt.edu>

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS TO ACADEMIC/PRODUCTION WORK:

DT students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignments within the Department, as well as outside employment, athletics, and other obligations, sometimes impose conflicting pressures on DT students. One of the principal responsibilities of each student is to carefully identify and monitor the commitments that comprise his/her production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

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