EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

DANCE

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design

Dance Department

FA / DANC 2225 3.0 SECTION B

CHOREOGRAPHY

FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces the study of the basic principles of dance composition; both practical movement studies and analytic/critical work will be employed to explore the creative process and to begin to develop the craft and skills of choreography. Required of dance majors seeking the BFA degree. Prerequisite: FA/DANC 1205 3.00, FA/DANC 1206 3.00, FA/DANC 1215 3.00 and FA/DANC 1216 3.00 or permission of the instructor. Corequisite: Current enrolment in dance technique, or permission of the department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norman, Tracey</td>
<td>Sec. B / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:traceyn@yorku.ca">traceyn@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22493</td>
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</tbody>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Instructor

Tracey Norman

(416)736-2100 ext 22493

324 ACE

traceyn@yorku.ca

Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 12—1pm or by appointment.

Time and Location: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:00pm ACE 253

This course explores the creative process, including many methods and approaches to choreographing dance. It will provide an introduction to the basic dance compositional skills and principles through various investigatory approaches including, improvising, composing, viewing, discussing, reading, and writing.

At the core of this course are improvisations, tasks, and games designed to stir the imagination, and to facilitate the exploration and development of a personal and “original” movement vocabulary. Original referring to “of its origin.” In other words, a vocabulary that begins with one’s self as the site of inquiry or starting point. This is work that is not imitative or directly derivative.

From this source material, we will work with various elements, including time, space, shape, effort and form to design short dance initiatives.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Students are encouraged to experience this course as a vehicle for movement research and invention. Focusing on the body as an expressive instrument, through various movement studies, the dancer will begin to articulate a personal choreographic voice. The in-class experiential work will serve as a basis for dance initiatives, and the work presented should demonstrate an understanding of the concepts explored in class.
Much of the class time will be devoted to practical work, including choreographic tasks and movement exploration. Individual and collaborative dance studies will be presented frequently, in addition to the discussion of compositional tools, readings, viewings, and writing. Students will have some time to work on compositional projects in class and are expected to devote time outside of class to their creative observations, research, and rehearsals. A large part of this course is experiential as a means to investigate contemporary choreographic issues, strategies, and craft.

It is required and beneficial for students to be open to new experiences and alternative approaches, as well as constructive criticism. Information and feedback will be offered to the individual and the class as a whole, and students are expected to apply this to their practice. Coming to class with an appetite for movement and creative expression will be an asset to the dancer. During class, students are encouraged to ask questions and to partake in discussions. If at any time during the term the student has questions concerning the class approach or her/his individual progress, an appointment should be made with the instructor.

Students need to arrive for class warm and prepared to collaborate with one another. Bring your notes, journal and a pen to each class. Students’ compositional presentations may be videotaped for their own use, as well as a tool for evaluation. Students will be expected to spend time outside of class on creative tasks and written work. Studio space may be booked through the office.

**Required Reading:**
Students will be reading the following text over the Fall term - *Form Without Formula. A Concise Guide to the Choreographic Process* by Patricia Beatty

This book has been ordered for this class and can be found in the York Bookstore.

Students may be assigned articles to read during the term.

**Selected Bibliography - Recommended Readings:**

The Dance Current, Toronto - monthly magazine: includes articles on local and national dance - copies available at the Department office. Select articles and blog available at www.thedancecurrent.com


**LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF**

The purpose of this course is to facilitate the development of basic dance compositional skills.
Through guided improvisations and choreographic tasks, students will develop a personal movement vocabulary to be called upon to compose dances. Students will work individually and together on projects, gaining an understanding of the collaborative element of dance creation.

Specific Learning Outcomes of the Course:

- Comprehension of the fundamentals of the creative process in the making of dance;
- expanding the ability to distill movement, solve problems, and shape dances;
- developing a welcome response to new concepts, vocabularies, and ideas;
- increasing the potential for imagination, artistic expression and creativity;
- developing the ability to think critically and articulate upon movement practices;
- collaborating with and support peers in attaining collective and individual goals;
- providing a foundation for those wishing to pursue choreography or art-making.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

As embodied knowledge is illustrated through physical execution, all physical practice courses are assessed primarily through studio work. Students are assessed in the following categories:

20%  In-Class Work & Participation:
Attendance, punctuality, participation, and a generous spirit factor heavily into this integral course component. Students are required to share feedback on each other’s work and partake in discussions related to course content. In-class work is also evaluated by: a willingness to experiment and take risks; respect for peers and instructor; overall effort and commitment.

40%  Choreographic Projects:
Throughout the term, students will be assigned and present 4 short compositional projects. These movement studies are aimed at developing clarity and an understanding of composition. There is an emphasis on creativity, innovation, and attention to detail, and students are encouraged to make use of elements of structure and craft discussed in class. Compositional work is also evaluated by: quality and integrity; ability to follow through and develop initial ideas; ability to profit from criticism, re-work material; observation of deadlines. Students will receive a grading scheme for each project.

Project Presentations: September 28, October 24, November 16 and November 30.

25%  Written Component:
This component is focused on developing a better understanding of the creative process. Students are encouraged to notate all components of their creative work over the Fall term. The demonstration of reflective content is required for all written work:
- Process notes will be submitted for each of the first 3 choreographic projects. Due: 1 week after each choreographic project (see above). Guidelines will be given in class. 15%
- Students are required to attend a performance on Tuesday, September 19 at 5pm on Glendon Campus (free shuttle leaves from campus at 3:30pm). You will be asked to write a commentary on the event, choreographed by Carol Anderson. Prompts leading to possible responses will be given prior to the performance. Due: October 3
- Students are required to read Form Without Formula. A Concise Guide to the Choreographic Process by Patricia Beatty and respond. Outline to be provided in class. Due: November 14

15%  Unofficial Midterm Grade
The unofficial midterm grade is not filed with the Registrar but comprises part of the final grade; designed to give students timely feedback on their progress and received at least 1 week before the drop date for this course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Important University Sessional Dates (classes start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, etc.): https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw17

York University Grading System:  

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties, and Missed Tests:  
The grading scheme for courses conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) An average piece of work in university is about a C+ or B. Grades go up or down from there depending on the attention and effort applied as well as evidence of tangible change.

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter, or Summer Term, and 30% for full year courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

Assignment Submission/Lateness Penalty:  
Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Assignments must be received on the due date specified and are to be handed in at the beginning of class. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Assignments received later than the specified due date will be penalized one-half letter grade per day. There are exceptions to this lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc. but require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor’s letter).

N.B. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or School grades distribution profiles. Once final grades have been posted, the full breakdown will be available and can be discussed in an appointment with the Course Director or Chair of the department.

"20% Rule":  
No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: **February 9, 2018**  
Last date to drop a Fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: **November 10, 2017**  
Last date to drop a Winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: **March 9, 2018**

Course Withdrawal Period: (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)  
Last date for full year (Y) course: **February 10 to April 6, 2018**  
Last date for Fall term (F) course: **November 11 to December 4, 2017**  
Last date for Winter term (W) course: **March 10 to April 6, 2018**

Please note that financial deadline dates differ from add/drop deadlines.
Department of Dance Studio Dress Requirements:
In order to give students the best possible guidance in Contemporary Ballet and Modern studio dance classes, teachers must be able to see the entire body. Postural alignment and joint and muscle use cannot be corrected in these classes if loose or bulky clothing hide the body. Other dance forms we teach may require specific footwear, props, and/or other clothing options. Please make sure to check your outlines for each of your studio dance classes for the specific dress requirements and the details each teacher will require.

The general requirements are:
- Form fitting clothing that covers torso and legs should be worn. Bring close-fitting warmer clothing and socks for cold days. (No loose-fitting or ragged clothing unless specified).
- Hair must be worn off the neck and face for Ballet, and back and off the face for Modern.
- Students can wear leotard and tights (any solid colour), and ballet slippers for Ballet and bare feet for Modern.
- Please be considerate of your fellow dancers; avoid long fingernails and jewellery (including piercings, watches, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and large rings). Ensure hair-wear is secure.

Department of Dance Studio Use Regulations:
- There is absolutely no food or drink (other than water) permitted in the studios.
- Leave street shoes and boots in the cubbies outside the studio or preferably, in your locker. If you must bring street shoes and boots in to the studio, please place them inside a bag. Grit and dirt brought into the space pose a safety hazard for dancers (particularly for those working barefoot) in addition to damaging the floor surfaces. NO BARE FEET in the Dance Department hallways or bathrooms.
- Do not prop the studio doors open by using the deadbolt, the mirror curtain, or anything that blocks the studio entrance.
- Please return studio furniture to its rightful place according to the floor plan posted by the door in each space.

Department of Dance Video Guidelines:
The Department of Dance has developed these guidelines in order to raise awareness of expected behaviour regarding recording/videotaping curricular work, and to foster a culture of respect for intellectual and creative property, as well as for individual privacy.

While the Department recognizes the democratizing effect of the internet, the Department requests that students do not post curricular work publicly to the internet, unless by express permission of the Chair of the Department, and waivers signed by all concerned. Work is to be shared only via private file-sharing access. This applies to documentation made by the Department and/or by individual students for their own archives.

Department of Dance Guidelines For Scented Products:
York University endeavours to provide an indoor environment that supports the University community at work and study. Some people experience severe health problems from exposure to chemicals contained in scented products including aftershave lotions, hair spray, deodorants and fragrances. In consideration of those who are affected by such chemicals, use unscented products only.

Department of Dance Guidelines For Physical Demands of the Program:
Courses in the Department of Dance may include elements that are physically demanding. Prior injuries can be aggravated by strenuous exercise so check with your physician and inform the Course Director before beginning the course. Be sure to share with the Course Director any changes in your injury or health that may affect your participation.

Courses in the Department of Dance may also include the possibility/likelihood of human contact (i.e., correction of alignment or technical execution as well as the possibility of collision with
colleagues). Students uncomfortable with the use of touch are requested to relay feelings to the Course Director as soon as possible.

**Department of Dance Guidelines For Safety and Wellbeing:**

Should an accident occur in studio, there is a very clear protocol for reporting. This information is posted in every studio. Faculty members and staff are well versed in the protocol. For the various minor issues that come up in your day-to-day life as a dancer, it is recommended that you carry a well-stocked personal first aid kit in your dance bag.

**Department of Dance Attendance and Participation Policy for Studio Classes:**

Students are expected to participate in every dance class, both studio and lecture courses. Under exceptional circumstances they may miss, without penalty, half the number of classes per term as the class meets in the week. (i.e., If your class meets two times a week, you may miss ONE class over the entire course without penalty.)

Details are as follows for studio classes that meet two (2) times per week:

- Absences or early departures in excess of 1 per term can result in a grade deduction of 2% per occurrence.
- In the event of an absence or limited participation, all missed material is to be learned prior to returning to class.
- In the event of an injury or illness preventing full participation for more than 1 class in a term, it is the student’s immediate responsibility, in consultation with the Course Director, to devise a plan for make-up work. The sooner this is done, the less stress you will experience from the uncertainty of the situation. If you are injured or ill, obtain and submit a hard copy doctor’s note. The doctor’s note will allow you to arrange for appropriate make-up work. Grade penalties can still apply, but the documentation assists in gauging the amount of penalty and make-up work needed.
- Partial class participation beyond 1 class per term results in a 1% grade penalty.
- Non-participation beyond 1 class per term results in a 2% grade penalty.
- As detailed in the Injury Guidelines in the Department of Dance, students must complete a minimum of 60% of the studio work to receive course credit.
- Finally, in consideration of all participants, if you are ill, stay home and/or see your healthcare provider. You will recover faster and, should your illness be contagious, you will have shown others consideration by limiting their exposure. Do NOT come to class if you are ill!

**Department of Dance Technical Evaluation Policy:**

It is the Department’s responsibility to ensure that every dance major experiences optimal training and educational conditions. This is especially important in physical practice where safety is a pedagogical imperative. To that end, all students enrolled in dance technique courses (i.e. Contemporary Modern and/or Contemporary Ballet) participate in technical level evaluation at the beginning of the Fall term. Dance faculty conduct evaluations in a traditional group class setting. Students who have successfully completed the pre-requisite courses, have maintained an appropriate level of fitness, and have continued with technical training over the spring and summer months normally proceed to the next level.

It must be noted that a satisfactory grade in the pre-requisite course does not guarantee placement in the next level of technique. Some students may be required to remain at the previous level to safely develop additional technical skill. Extended illness, injury, or insufficient technical skill are some of the factors that lead to such a decision.

The study of dance as a physical and artistic practice requires a commitment to year-round technical training, body conditioning, and cross training. Students are, therefore, expected to independently seek out and maintain an appropriate training regimen all 12 months of the year.
York University Academic Senate Policies and Information:

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Policies and Regulations information which can be found on the 2017/18 Academic Calendars page:

http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/dance

We recommend carefully reviewing all three sections; About, Degree Requirements, and Faculty Rules. Important information is explained here including the Policy on Academic Honesty, Academic Responsibility and Student Responsibility, and Academic Standing. Further details are available on the Secretariat Policies website, http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/, which covers the following topics:

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Religious Accommodation
Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities
Academic Honesty

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University