DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 3510A3.0 SECTION A
DANCES OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/19/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers African dance forms at the intermediate level. It includes the study of the dances in their cultural contexts such as Ghanaian, Togolese, Beninois, Nigerian and Guinean. The effects of contemporary changes on these art forms are examined. Studio/Discussion. Prerequisites: FA/DANC 1500 6.00 or FA/DANC 2510A 3.00 or FA/DANC 2511A 3.00 or permission of the department. Open to majors and non-majors

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amegago, Modesto</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mamegago@yorku.ca">mamegago@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22130</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Office: Accolade East Room 313
Telephone: (416)-736-5137, Extension 22130
Email: amegago@yahoo.com

Course Consultation Hours: Wednesday, 12.30-2.00 PM. or by Appointment.
Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-8.00 PM: Venue: Studio E 249 Accolade East Building.

Expanded Course Description

This course introduces students to African dance/music and their cultural contexts as well as provides opportunities for students to continue their study of African dance/music and their cultural contexts at intermediate level. The course explores selected music and dance forms drawn from the West African cultural contexts. Students are introduced to the act of playing African instruments such as bells, rattles and drums, and singing African songs as well as performing African dances. Students are required to complete quizzes on the various dance and musical forms, and keep reflective journals of their learning experiences throughout the semester (for reference purposes). They are required to perform the dance/musical forms they would learn in class in the middle and at the end of the semester. The midterm performance may be delayed for about a week or two until the students have mastered the dance/musical forms. Students enrolled in 3510A may be required to perform a relatively more challenging dance form(s) during the end of the semester.

Students enrolled in 2510A are required to write a 3 to 4 page double-spaced reflective paper that should contain a summary of the weekly activities: the cultural contexts and the methods/process of learning and performing the dance/musical forms, student’s own impressions and feedback or suggestions for the instructor.

Students enrolled in 3510A are required to either write a 5-6 page double-spaced paper that addresses or relates to any of the dances/topics covered in class; or choreograph a dance piece, utilizing some of the movements learnt in class and other African dance-related movements (learnt from other classes/settings), and present it in class on the assigned date during the end of the semester. All written papers should be
handed over to the instructor on the assigned date during end of the semester.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Required Text: None

Recommended texts:

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Brief Statement of the Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to lead students to understand the historical and cultural contexts of African dance/music, acquire skills in playing some African instruments, singing and performing a variety of African dance forms, develop skills in writing papers on African and African related dance/music, and apply these knowledge and skills to their class assignments, research, future education and careers.

Brief List of Specific Learning Objectives/Outcomes of the Course:
By the end of the semester, students will:
• Understand the historical and cultural contexts and functions of African dance/music.
• Broaden their cross cultural awareness.
• Develop skills in performing and theorizing African and African related dance/music.
• Acquire analytical, evaluative and appreciative skills relating to African dance/music.
• Exhibit their practical and theoretical skills through midterm and end of semester performances, quizzes and papers.
• Demonstrate their ability to apply these knowledge and skills to their future education, performance, creativity, research, documentation and careers.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Evaluation:
Assignment 1: Quizzes: 20 % (due dates: September 21, October 12, November 9 and November 23).
Assignment 2: Midterm performance: 15% (October 16 and 19).
Assignment 3: Final performance: 20% (November 21, 23 and 30).
Reflective/Research Paper or Final Choreography: 15% (November 30)
Attendance and Participation: 30% (full attendance of all the classes: 10%; participation; progress, mastery of skills, music/dance qualities: 20%).
Total marks add up to 100%
Assignments and Evaluation Criteria:

Assignment 1: Students are required to complete quizzes set on specific dance/musical forms. There may be four quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will be evaluated on correctness, validity and clarity of answers and appropriate use of grammar. Please note that due dates for some of the quizzes may be postponed to another date or week depending on the pace of the class.

Assignment 2: Midterm Performance: Students are required to perform some of the dances learnt in class in small groups (of four or six) during the midterm.

Assignment 3: Final Performance: Students are required to perform some of the dance/musical forms learnt in class in small groups (of 4-6) at the end of the semester. Students enrolled in 3510A may be required to perform a relatively more challenging dance form(s) during the end of the semester.

Dancing throughout the semester and during the midterm and final performances will be evaluated on the mastery of movements (i.e., movement qualities, performance skills, attitude and progress), based on the assumption of the appropriate posture, proper execution of the movements, timing and proper coordination of the movements with the music, and proper expression of emotion/feeling in the face and body.

Singing throughout the semester and during the midterm and final performance will be evaluated on the proper pronunciation and understanding of the lyrics in relation to context, proper rendition of the songs, personal involvement in singing and proper coordination of the songs with instrumental sounds.

Instrumental music throughout the semester and during the midterm and final performances will be evaluated on the mastery and proper application of the playing techniques, proper handling of instruments, proper articulation of the musical sounds, coordination of the sounds with other instrumental sounds, songs and movements, and knowledge of linguistic and cultural contexts of the sounds.

Assignment 4: Reflective/Research Papers:

Students enrolled in 2510A are required to write a three to four (double-spaced) pages reflective paper that should contain a summary of the daily or weekly class activities, the learning and performance methods and processes, and their own comments, suggestions or feedback or overall impression on the semester’s activities/experiences.

Students enrolled 3510A are required to either (option A) write a five to six page (double-spaced) paper that should address the origin and development of African dance and musical forms or compare the origin, cultural contexts and functions of African and African derived, or world dance/musical forms/styles; or discuss the knowledge they have acquired from this course and how they would use it in the future; or (option B) choreograph a dance piece using some of the African and African related movements, to address any of the topics or themes covered in class, or specific theme(s) of their choice (this should be discussed with the instructor prior to undertaking the project).

Students are encouraged to work as individuals or in small groups of not more than six people in choreographing the dance piece. Dance pieces choreographed by individual students in 3510A should be about five minutes long. Group pieces should be between ten to twenty-five minutes long (depending on the number of students in the group; e.g. a group of two-five students). The dance pieces would be presented on November 30 2017. Also, all reflective and research papers should be handed over to the instructor by November 30 2017.

Reflective and Research Papers will be evaluated on clarity, validity, coherence, grammatical structure and the quantity of information they contain.

Attendance will be evaluated on prompt, regular and full class attendance throughout the semester. Marks will be deducted for each day of absence, late attendance and early departure from classes, unless the student obtains a special permission from the instructor before class.

Class participation will be evaluated on student’s participation or involvement in the weekly class activities, such as instrumental learning/performance, singing, dancing and class discussions. Marks will be deducted for lack of participation in all class activities.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

This course is mainly a studio course that runs only twice in a week. Students are required to attend all classes promptly and participate in all the class activities throughout the learning semester. Poor attendance will affect a student’s progress in class and the final grade. A student may be permitted to miss one class
without penalty. Every additional absence from class will account for a two point deduction per occurrence from the final course grade. (Please note that absence, late arrival or early departure in excess of six times may result in a failing grade). If you miss a class, ask your classmates about what was done in class on that day and any possible assignments and assistance.

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:**
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.)

**For studio classes that meet one (1) time per week:**
- Absences or early departures in excess of 1 per term can result in a grade deduction of 4% per occurrence.
- Partial class participation beyond 1 class per term results in a 2% grade penalty.
- Non-participation beyond 1 class per term results in a 4% grade penalty.

**For studio classes that meet two (2) or more times per week:**
- Absences or early departures in excess of 1 per term can result in a grade deduction of 2% per occurrence.
- 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.

**For all classes:**
- 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.
- 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/](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:

**Professionalism and Classroom Etiquette:**
Professionalism is an attitude—much more than the act of receiving money for your work. It is about having confidence and pride in your work with a willingness to contribute to the group. These guidelines will also help you attain autonomy and professional capacity.

- Address all your personal care issues before class begins. This includes doing a bathroom run, filling your water bottle and having a supply of tissues. You should not need to leave the studio during class unless you are experiencing a personal emergency.
- Please participate in helping to prepare the studio space for dancing in advance of the class start time to ensure a timely beginning.
• Please stand and cease all preparatory/warm-up activities when the Course Director or special guest indicates the start of class.
• Whether a correction is given to an individual or the entire class, all students are expected to apply the correction to their own work.
• When working in pairs or small groups, aim to stay focused on the given task and be prepared to direct your attention back to the group quickly in order maintain the classroom pace. Respect and support your peers by staying focused. This means that there are times when one must put aside personal feelings and frustrations to maintain an optimal work environment.

Musicians and Music:
Dancing involves two artistic practices—music and movement. Our Departmental musicians are an invaluable part of our York dance community. Show your respect by acknowledging their presence, gratitude through positive feedback, silence when they play and applause at the end of class. Please be sure not to block the musician’s view when waiting at the side. The musician must be able to see the dancers moving in the space at all times. Should our regular musician be away, kindly exercise patience and respect to both the Course Director and the new musician. Should we be without a live musician, work to adapt to the use of silence and/or recorded music as a valuable opportunity to work on other related areas of your dance practice.

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