COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers breaking at the intermediate level. This includes creative tasks as students begin to develop their own breaking "sets" alongside methods for approaching their freestyle (improved) dance practices. Learning outcomes include a critical understanding of the work involved in improvisation and the individual development of preparation strategies for breaking "battles" (competitions). Course objectives include the development of basic competences in performance including strategies for "battle" formats. Students will develop a critical understanding of how concepts and discourses about improvisation are taken up in breaking practices and receptions. Prerequisites: FA/DANC 2510L 3.00 or 2511L 3.00 or permission of the department. Open to non majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aprahamian, Serouj</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:serouj@yorku.ca">serouj@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22254</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Instructor:
Serouj Aprahamian
Accolade East, Room 314
ext. 22254
serouj@yorku.ca

Office hours by appointment.

Time and Location:
Saturdays, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
ACE 249 (Studio E)

In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamental vocabulary of breaking and hip-hop dance. This will involve both critical thinking and physical practice. Since this is a studio-based course, participation in all aspects of the class from warm-up, to conditioning, technique acquisition, class discussion, workshops and group work, and cool down is essential. Students will be held to strict codes of timeliness and be
expected to participate fully throughout this course. Students will also be assigned take-home reading and writing assignments.

**Course Goals:**

1. Familiarize students with the cultural and historical context of breaking, specifically, and hip-hop dance, more generally.
2. Provide participants an embodied understanding of foundational movements within the various branches of hip-hop dance, including breaking, popping, locking, and freestyling.
3. Empower students to build their own creative approach to hip-hop dance stemming from the fundamental techniques and methods offered within the course.
4. Foster a critical understanding of how concepts and dominant discourses are taken up in breaking and hip-hop dance practices.
5. Enable students to choreograph and assess breaking performances through their acquisition of knowledge about breaking form, structure, aesthetics, meanings and cultural values through both embodied movements and their extended mind.

**TOPICS AND CONCEPTS**

**Course Calendar:**

**September 9:** Introduction; Required reading: Tony Bones, Queen Heroine and MFW, “The Cypher: Add Water an Stir,” Stress, issue 10 (December 1997): 44.

**September 16:** Setting the Script; Required reading: PHASE 2, “Dance or Die.”
http://alienness.blogspot.ca/2010/08/dance-or-die.html

**September 23:** The ABC’s; Required reading:
“Diary of an Ex-Soul Train Dancer: The Original Skeeter Rabbit.”

**September 30:** Body Language; Required reading/viewing:

**October 7:** West Coast Slang; Required reading: Aerosol Alphabets at www.handselecta.com

*‘What You Write’ In-Class Assignment 10%

**October 14:** Toronto Style; Required viewing:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q46LDWr5yYU

October 28: NO CLASS (Reading Week)

November 4: Putting it All Together; Required reading:
https://sports.vice.com/en_ca/article/4xzq33/the-battle-for-breaking-on-the-olympic-stage
*Class Content Quiz 10%


*Reflective Essay Due 20%

November 25: Perfecting Your Craft

December 2: End of Term Showing
*Class Performances 20%

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

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.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Course Reading/Viewing Material:
All assigned texts and visual materials are available through the York Library, or through online links provided in the syllabus.
Additional material may be assigned or recommended during the course.

Clothing: Every class will involve dance and movement work. Wear comfortable clothing in which you can move around easily.
**Evaluation:** The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

**20%**  
**Attitude & Attendance**  
Students are expected to come to class having read and viewed the required material, and must be prepared to engage in discussions and movement exercises. In addition, students will be evaluated according to their punctuality, adherence to studio etiquette, and respect for their peers and instructor.

**20%**  
**Skills Acquirement & Improvement**  
Each student will be evaluated according to their grasp and execution of movement concepts covered in the class. Students will also be expected to demonstrate steady improvement in creativity, artistic expression, body awareness, speed, musicality, improvisation, and spatial patterning.

**10%**  
**‘What You Write’ Assignment**  
Students will present a stylized rendition of their name (or nickname) in class based on the aesthetics of aerosol writing. Name-tags will be provided for students to carry out the assignment on **October 7th**. Signatures will be evaluated according to flow, symmetry, creativity, cleanliness, and foundation.

**10%**  
**Class Content Quiz**  
On **November 4th**, students will be required to take a short quiz covering the fundamentals of hip-hop culture. All of the questions on the quiz will be multiple-choice and based on the readings, viewings, and discussions throughout the course.

**20%**  
**Reflective Essay**  
A 500-word reflection essay on your learning experience in this course will be due on **November 18th**. Further details will be provided during the course.

**20%**  
**End of Term Showing**  
Each student will be required to present a culminating piece in class on **December 2nd**. Further details will be provided during the 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](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) 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/, which covers the following topics:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
  http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/policies-and-regulations/academic-policies-and-regulations/academic-accommodation
- Religious Accommodation:
  http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/policies-and-regulations/academic-policies-and-regulations/religious-accommodation
- Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:
- Academic Honesty:
  http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/policies-and-regulations/student-conduct/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