EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 4245 3.0 SECTION A
DANCE ENSEMBLE I
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/14/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers an enriched performance/production experience for highly motivated upper-level dance majors wishing to concentrate on the performance and/or production areas. Students are required to commit to an intensive schedule, including evening rehearsals and out-of-town performances. Ensemble members will focus on one or more aspects of dance company activity, which include performance, choreography, tour management, production support and publicity. Students in FA/DANC 4245 3.00 are expected to continue with FA/DANC 4246 3.00. Due to the heavy rehearsal schedule, there is a minimum of 12 hours per week. Prerequisite: Admission is by juried audition. Open to other fine arts majors by permission of the course director. Corequisite: Performers must be enrolled in FA/DANC 4205 3.00 and FA/DANC 4215 3.00.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

TBD

SPECIAL FEATURES

The York Dance Ensemble (YDE) is a repertory company for 3rd and 4th year dance majors. This course offers an enriched performance/production experience for highly motivated upper-level dance majors wishing to concentrate on the performance and/or production areas. Ensemble members will focus on one or more aspects of dance company activity, which include performance, choreography, production support, fundraising activities and publicity.

As a member of a pre-professional repertory ensemble, performers work with faculty choreographers, MFA and advanced undergraduate students to develop repertoire for Dance Department performances, a Pan-Faculty production, auditions and outreach activities. The rehearsal and performance schedule is rigorous and demands a high level of stamina, organization and commitment from all members. Our highly motivated, talented and dedicated students take part in a variety of creative processes (including improvisation and use of integrated technology) in a range of performance contexts. The members engaged in promotion, production and arts administration activities associated with YDE gain first-hand experience in these important aspects of running a dance company. The experience of YDE is richly fulfilling, engaging and a vehicle for great artistic, creative and personal growth.

NB: All students enrolled in the 4th-year level course are expected to participate fully in the company.

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: Admission is by juried audition. Open to other AMPD majors by permission of the Course Director. All participants are expected to commit to both Fall and Winter terms. Students enrolled in 4245 in the Fall term are expected to continue with 4246 in Winter term. Performers who enroll in 3240 must also be enrolled in FA/DANC 3205/06 and 3215/16. Performers who enroll in 4245 and 4246 must also be enrolled in FA/DANC 4205/06 and 4215/16.

Students are required to commit to an intensive schedule (i.e., a minimum of 12 hours per week), which may include rehearsals and performances outside of official class time. Daily and weekly schedules will be posted on the YDE bulletin on the 2nd floor of ACE and will be shared via Google Drive or the Moodle course website. Ensemble members are responsible for checking these sources regularly for updates, which could include changes to rehearsal/performance schedules, as well as
other pertinent information.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

The York Dance Ensemble is an intensive studio / performance course. Topics covered will consist of the practical, philosophical, artistic and physical skill and mind sets required for success in a repertory dance ensemble. From time-to-time concerts and readings may be assigned or recommended.

The YDE is a unique learning environment that encompasses many of the roles and activities that will be required of you once you enter the professional dance milieu. To make great art requires the coordination and collaboration of many different people with many different roles. Success in a professional environment requires openness, generosity, curiosity, discipline and respect. In the YDE, a positive and respectful attitude towards artistic coordinator, choreographers, designers, production and administrative personnel, teaching assistants and fellow Ensemble members, is expected at all times. This is for the health of the individual, the group and the work.

In rehearsal, strive to be receptive to new and challenging material, to correction, feedback and to change. You must be willing to invest sufficient time and energy to master and retain material and make every effort to realize the Artistic Coordinator’s and Choreographer’s intentions and artistic vision. Strive also for a positive relationship with one another and do your part to ensure a productive environment in which all members, including the Artistic Coordinator, Teaching Assistants and Choreographers may flourish.

The study of dance as a physical and artistic practice requires a commitment to year-round technical training, body conditioning, and cross training. Your body is your instrument and it is essential you look after the health of your body by engaging in appropriate cross-training, therapeutic practices and healthy nutrition to support the maximal efficiency of your dancing. Regular and punctual attendance is a must for the development of the technical and physical requirements needed for this rigorous course, to support the realization of each choreographer’s vision and to aid in your own artistic growth and experience. (Please see Attendance guidelines below). Company members must be punctual and thoroughly warmed-up for every rehearsal.

YDE dancers should dress appropriately for each rehearsal. This may vary according to the needs of individual choreographers. You are asked to purchase your own appropriate foundation garments for the costumes you will be wearing this year and to purchase stage makeup for performances. Tattoos and piercings may need to be covered for performances. Please consult with both the Choreographer and Artistic Coordinator before making major changes to hairstyle or acquiring any visible piercing and/or tattoos.

It is recommended that you do not overload your schedule with other production work or performing outside of your Ensemble commitment during the school year. Please discuss all potential outside engagements with the Director before committing to something that may interfere with the YDE schedule. Failure to do this could result in your losing a role and could jeopardize your membership in the Ensemble. While we recognize the value of other performance work in the development of our students, the priority of the Ensemble member is to YDE activities and performances.

Below is the Department of Dance Curricular Performance/Production Schedule for 2017–2018. YDE will be performing in the Canada 150 Celebrations, YDE Concert and the Incubator Project. As upper level choreography/performance majors, you will likely be involved in Dance Innovations and York Dances, so these schedules are included as well. YDE will also be performing at Dance Department Auditions, as well as other venues on campus. Please keep apprised of the continually updated Performance Schedule.

Curricular Performance/Production Schedule

Canada 150 Celebration, Faire Fecan Theatre (A.D. Patrick Alcedo) Oct 26-28, 2017

Title: Luzviminda

Oct 14, 10:00-18:00, Load-in
Oct 17-20, 18:00-22:30, Levels

Oct 21, 10:00-18:00, morning Levels continue, afternoon Tech Dress Oct 24, 18:00-22:30, Dress Rehearsal (Curtain 7:30pm)
Oct 25, 18:30-22:00, Preview (Curtain 7:30pm)
Oct 26, 18:30-22:00, Opening Performance (Curtain 7:30 pm)
Oct 27, 18:30-22:00, Performance (Curtain 7:30 pm)
Oct 28, 12:30-18:30, Final Performance and Strike (Curtain 1:30 pm)

**Dance Innovations, McLean Studio (A.D. Julia Sasso w Freya Olafson) Nov 23-25, 2017**

*Title: Up rising*

Nov 11, 10:00-18:00, Load-in
Nov 14-17, 18:00-22:30, Levels
Nov 18, 10:00-18:00, morning Levels cont’d, afternoon Tech Dress
Nov 21, 18:00-23:00 Dress Rehearsal, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
Nov 22, 18:00-23:00 Preview, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
Nov 23, 18:00-22:00, Opening Performance, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
Nov 24, 18:00-22:00, Performance, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
Nov 25, 12:00-17:00, Matinee Final Performance (Curtain, Series A - 1pm, B - 2:30pm) and Strike

**YDE Concert, Faire Fecan Theatre (A.D. Susan Lee) Feb 14-16, 2018**

*Title: SPARKS*

Feb 3, 10:00-18:00, Load-in
Feb 6-9, 18:00-22:30, Levels
Feb 10, 10:00-18:00, morning Levels continue, afternoon Tech Dress Feb 13, 18:00-22:30, Dress Rehearsal (Curtain 7:30pm)
Feb 14, 18:30-22:30, Opening (Curtain 7:30pm)
Feb 15, 18:30-22:30, Performance (Curtain 7:30 pm)
Feb 16, 18:30-23:30, Final Performance and Strike (Curtain 7:30 pm)

**The Incubator Project, Studio ‘A’ & ‘F’ (A.D. William Mackwood) Mar 15-17, 2018**

*Title: moving interiors*

Mar 3, 10:00-18:00, Load-in
Mar 6-9, 18:00-22:30, Tech
Mar 10, 10:00-18:00, Tech and Tech Dress
Mar 13, 18:00-22:30, Dress Rehearsal (Curtain 7:30pm)
Mar 14, 18:00-22:30, Preview(Curtain 7:30pm)
Mar 15, 18:30-22:30, Opening (Curtain 7:30pm)
Mar 16, 18:30-22:30, Performance (Curtain 7:30 pm)
Mar 17, 12:00-18:00, Matinee Final Performance and Strike (Curtain 1:00 pm)

**York Dances (Studio Showing), McLean Studio (A.D. Tracey Norman) Mar 27-29, 2018**

*Title: TBA*

Mar 27, 16:00-20:00 Tech
Mar 28, 18:00-22:00 (Curtain: 7:00 pm & 8:30pm) Mar 29, 18:00-22:00 (Curtain: 7:00 pm & 8:30pm)
LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing excellence in dance artistry, professionalism, creativity and critical thinking in the context of a repertory dance company. Extensive rehearsal processes, performances in a variety of contexts are the key activities of this course.

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge / Application of Knowledge/ Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will:
- develop sophisticated observation and learning skills to move with versatility and embrace a diverse range of choreographic methods and styles;
- develop imagination, creativity and self-confidence in learning and performing dance;
- develop improvisation skills as a pathway to dance creation and performance;
- deepen their performance artistry through the development of presence, focus and projection.

Awareness of Limitations of Knowledge

Students will:
- be challenged to fulfill his or her potential in terms of technical excellence and expressive range;
- acknowledge and work with their own strengths and limitations and be able to apply technical and expressive abilities, and critical awareness in rehearsal and performance.

Autonomy and Professional Capacity

Students will be prepared to work independently as well as collaboratively with their peers and with dance professionals in the community by:
- exercising initiative, responsibility and accountability in both personal and group contexts;
- working effectively and collaboratively with others;
- behaving in a manner that is consistent with academic integrity, social responsibility and professionalism; embodying principles of healthy, sustainable dance practices.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Graded Assessment:

30% Depth and Breadth of Knowledge / Application of Knowledge/ Knowledge of Methodologies
- Technical and artistic excellence; learning and retention of choreographic material; intelligent application of feedback; contribution to creative process; creativity and imagination; clarity of intent; attention to detail;

30% Awareness of Limitations of Knowledge
- Improvement of technical and performing skill; adaptability to a variety of rehearsal and performance demands; willingness to experiment and take risks;

25% Autonomy and Professional Capacity
- Attendance, punctuality and full participation in Ensemble activities; conscientious warm-up and preparation for rehearsal and performance; responsibility, commitment, respect and professionalism in all dealings with other Ensemble members and all Artistic and Production staff; ability to work both independently and co-operatively on Ensemble repertoire as well as cross-training and conditioning.

15% Midterm Grade (unofficial)
- Based equally on Depth and Breadth of Knowledge / Application of Knowledge/ Knowledge of Methodologies, Awareness of Limitations of Knowledge, Autonomy and Professional Capacity. Will be given at least one week before the drop date.
NB: While the Artistic Coordinator is the main evaluator of your work in this course, input from Faculty and Guest choreographers will also be a part of your midterm and final grade.

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


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/, which covers the following topics:

- 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