EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 4400 9.0 SECTION A
SENIOR PROJECTS
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/19/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Students develop one or a series of self-directed interlinked projects, which may consist of research or field studies on a topic of interest (theoretical or creative) leading to a major piece of writing, a performance, an internship or some combination of these activities. Adjudication of the credit weighting of each project will be made by the department, based on the proposal. A supervisory committee may be established for projects involving more than six credits. Prerequisite: Fourth-year standing.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Developing a Senior Project provides upper-level Dance students with an important opportunity for self and professional development as they build from proposal to project to presentation over the course of a school year. This course encourages Dance students to dream and then plan. It is a time for students to take charge of their own education and decide what they most want to learn before leaving York. For those who haven’t yet decided on a career path, Senior Projects can be a time to explore different professions, issues, and topics as a means of finding a future profession.

Senior Projects happen with the guidance of at least one mentor, who is often a working dance professional, broadly defined, in Toronto. As a result, Senior Projects are also a valuable means of building professional networks that can help bridge between undergraduate and professional work. In this way, students’ projects help connect York’s Dance Department to Toronto’s wide range of dance professions, thus expanding “real-world” educational opportunities.

Students are expected to develop projects in which they are prepared to invest deeply. Projects vary widely depending on individual student interests and have included (school, magazine, dance company, and festival) placements, website development, choreographic showcases, kinesiology research projects, business plans, and professional writing projects. The size of each project will correspond with the amount of credits earned (details to follow) and will be divided into two primary parts—knowledge/skills gaining activities and knowledge/skills applying activities.

*Importantly, students are expected to design a “stand-alone” project in which there is no overlap of material or content with other courses in the same academic year.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Required Course Text: Fiore, Neil A. The now habit: A strategic program for overcoming procrastination and enjoying guilt-free play. Penguin, 2007. (available through both the library and bookstore)
We will use a Moodle website to facilitate communication in the class. You will need to set up your profile with a clear headshot by September 18th.

Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018. By then, your proposal (10%) will have been assessed and the first portion of your project (20-20%) will have been marked.

*Given that being on-time and fulfilling responsibilities are two essential professional skills, the penalty for lateness/negligence/absence on anything course-related is a letter-grade deduction (10 points), in each instance.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Through the completion of their senior project, students will do the following:

- Demonstrate advanced-level critical understanding of topics, debates, and critical skills within at least one field of specialization
  - Recognize, contextualize, and understand the appropriate uses of at least one research or creation methodology and its related practices
  - Apply specialized knowledges and skills, including of research or creation methodologies, within a professional context
  - Effectively communicate and disseminate ideas to specific audiences and for specific purposes
  - Demonstrate a keen awareness of the contexts, limits, and reach of specific knowledges and skills and how these might influence understandings, analyses, and interpretations
  - Initiate and collaborate on activities in a responsible and independent manner that integrates specific skills and knowledges within at least one professional context

GRADED ASSESSMENT

- 15% Participation (Online and In-Class)
- 10% Proposal Worksheet
- 75% Project (Designed by the Student)

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/, 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