COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces the study and performance of original or reconstructed choreographic works in a rehearsal and presentation setting. Rehearsal time outside of the course meetings will be scheduled close to performance dates. Required of BFA Dance Majors in the Performance/Choreography concentration. Open only to dance majors. Four hours. Co-requisite: Enrolment in upper level Contemporary/Modern.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olafson, Freya</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
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<td>York Ext. 88688</td>
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</tbody>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

**Course:** FA/DANC 3235/3236 3.00  
**Term:** Fall 2018 - 2019  
**Course Director:** Freya Björg Olafson  
**Prerequisite:** Open to BFA Dance Majors, enrollment in Upper Level Contemporary / Modern Dance forms  
**Time and Location:** Wednesdays 14:30 - 16:30 and Fridays 13:00 to 15:00, ACE 249  
**Course consultation hours:** Wednesdays 12:30 - 14:30, please make an appointment, ACE315

Introduces the study and performance of original choreographic work in a rehearsal and presentation setting. The course provides opportunity to collaborate with an experienced choreographer in the creation, development and performance of an original choreographic work. Performances are scheduled for **Nov 21-23, 2018** as part of ‘Fierce - The Next Generation of Powerful Dance Makers - Dance Innovations’ Series A in the McLean Performance Studio. Additional rehearsals, technical and dress rehearsals are scheduled prior to performance dates.

The participant’s role in this course is to immerse fully in the choreographic process to contribute to the artistic outcomes of the choreography. In collaboration with the course director, participants experience the creation, development, rehearsal, production and performance of an original dance work. During class meetings original movement material is generated through guided improvisational and choreographic methodologies; through this process the choreographic structure and content emerge. The process demands a high level of commitment and requires attendance and engaged participation in all scheduled classes, rehearsals and course activities. *Participants must plan now to be available for the additional dates and times listed under the Topics and Concepts heading.*

Students are required to keep a process journal, consisting of notes about the choreography and their learning process. This could include developing a form of notation using words, diagrams, directional sketches, images, drawings, etc, in order to assist the development of a personal notation and method for learning and retaining choreography. The journal also addresses self-reflection on the performer’s role in the development of a new work; this individual ongoing writing process is guided by prompts from the course director. The journals are submitted at end of term alongside a one to two page reflective synopsis of the journal entries.
The two writing assignments, the ongoing journaling and synopsis, assist students in developing a critical / reflective praxis as well as personal strategies for effectively notating creative process and choreography.

**TOPICS AND CONCEPTS**

Students perform in Series A of Dance Innovations. Dress rehearsal, preview and performance dates are below. All lighting rehearsals, tech/dress rehearsals, dress rehearsals, preview and performances are mandatory. As well warm up classes before performances may be organized as needed (details of time and place tba). Students must be available for lighting rehearsals (tba) on one of the follow evenings **November 13-16**, as well as for Tech Dress on **Saturday November 17th** (tbc).

**Dance Innovations, McLean Studio (A.D. Julia Sasso) Nov 21-23, 2018**

*Title: Fierce - The Next Generation of Powerful Dance Makers*

- Nov 13-16, 18:00-22:30 Lighting Levels – required times tba
- Nov 17, 10:00-18:00 Morning Levels cont’d, afternoon Tech Dress
- Nov 20, 18:00-23:00 Dress Rehearsal, (Series A – 7:00pm, Series B – 8:30pm)
- Nov 21, 18:00-23:00 Opening Performance, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
- Nov 22, 18:00-22:00 Performance, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm)
- Nov 23, 18:00-23:00 Closing Performance, (Series A – 7:00pm, B – 8:30pm) and load-out

**LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF**

Through engaged participation in the act of creation, from initial stages through to public performance, dancers gain insight into their potential and strengths as creators, interpreters and dance artists. The course develops transferable knowledge and skills including perception, retention, recall, discipline, dance technique, collaboration, composition, dramaturgy, direction, production, performance and professionalism. By the end of the course it is expected that participants have acquired the following skills:

- the ability to develop individual choreographic material under the guidance of an experienced choreographer
- the ability to learn and perform set choreographic material and to extend their range of movement skills to meet the choreographer’s expectations
- the ability to challenge expectations and to commit to areas of experimentation and increased physical challenges in order to realize choreographic goals
- the ability to sustain focus and engagement throughout the studio experience and in performance
- an appreciation of the intersection of technical training, creative and interpretive skills
- the attainment of increased respect and understanding through collaboration within the creative process, for fellow dancers, choreographers and all related artistic / technical personnel
- the ability to both question and comment articulately and intelligently in discussions and written assignments

Choreography for a group work necessitates balancing solos, small groupings and ensemble work into a resonant form. There may be sections that do not involve you directly but require your awareness and attentiveness as you may ultimately be asked to participate. An understanding of all the elements that contribute to the larger vision of the work is absolutely essential. The choreographic decisions made by the course director are based on the dual intention of creating a work that is ready for performance as well as appropriate for enhancing performers’ abilities.

To take full advantage of the expertise in our department guest faculty, graduate students or guest teachers might assist with / be present during sections of this course (TBD).

This course assumes a professional creation / rehearsal / production / performance context. Attendance at every class and rehearsal is essential. Dancers who are injured or ill are required to attend classes and to mark or watch if able or provide a doctor's note if absent. Absences may affect grades as per York’s guidelines, or
result in a reduced role in the work, at the discretion of the course director.

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Please refer to the Department of Dance ‘Production Handbook’ for an overview of roles / responsibilities of all members of the team as we work towards our performances. Students are required to be physically prepared prior to each studio class in order to maximize the repertory experience and to avoid injury. Students are required to work independently and/or in small groups to develop choreographic material and are expected to maintain a generous, professional approach to this process. Mutual respect is essential between course director and students, between students themselves and between students and technicians involved throughout the performance process.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Students are evaluated and graded based on their participation, practice and development as outlined in the course objectives. Criteria follow:

10% Class attendance

15% Written assignments - Process Journal (Due Nov 30th), Synopsis – Reflective essay - 2 pages (Due Nov 30th)

20% Mid-Term Evaluation

25% Pre-Performance Creation, Development, Rehearsal Process - focused presence, participation, creative contribution, collaboration, commitment, preparation, retention of material, advancement of technical and interpretive skill, taking risks, attention and respect to working peers and collaborative space

30% Final Performances & Production Week - professionalism, application of rehearsal skills to performance level, technical and interpretive skill brought to stage (November 23, 24 and 25)

100% Total

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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 8, 2019
Last date to drop a Fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 9, 2018
Last date to drop a Winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 8, 2019

Course Withdrawal Period: (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)
Last date for full year (Y) course: February 9 to April 3, 2019
Last date for Fall term (F) course: November 10 to December 4, 2018
Last date for Winter term (W) course: March 9 to April 3, 2019

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. World Dance and 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. Tight buns are not recommended for Contemporary/Modern as they may impede floorwork.
• 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, stairs, elevators, or bathrooms. Bring indoor flip-flops or slippers to go from studio to studio.
• 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. Programs Assistant Flannery Muise and faculty member Claire Wootten are the department’s certified first-aid reps.

**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:
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://secretariats.policies.info.yorku.ca/, which covers the following topics:


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