EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 4205 3.0 SECTION A
CONTEMPORARY/BALLET DANCE FORMS
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 09/12/2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers ballet technique for BFA dance majors. Ongoing training refines artistic expression, classical ballet vocabulary, musicality and athleticism. Includes a theoretical component which may be written projects, oral presentations, and class discussions. Optional for all dance majors. Prerequisites: FA/DANC 3206 3.00 and permission of the department.

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>Ottmann, John</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johno@yorku.ca">johno@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22492</td>
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</tbody>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course: FA/DANC 4205/07 3.00 Contemporary/Ballet Dance Forms
Term: Fall Term 2018.

Course Instructor:
John Ottmann
(416) 736-2100 Ex. 22312
ACE: 318
johno@yorku.ca

Time and Location: Section A: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 8:45 AM – 10:15 AM, ACE 251

N.B. There will be no classes on the following days:
October 8 – 11, 2018 – Fall Reading Days

Co-requisite: For Dance Majors - FA/DANC 3205 3.00 and FA/DANC 3207 3.00. Or with permission of the department.

Course consultation hours:
Fall Term: Monday and Wednesday mornings or afternoons before 1:00pm by appointment with instructor.

Philosophy of Physical Practice in the Department of Dance: Studio experience and technique training is at the core of the Department's long-held commitment to foundational contemporary dance forms. In this...
context, Contemporary Ballet is used in the curriculum as a support for the investigation of movement principles such as momentum, transfer of weight, flow, fall/recovery, opposition, energy vectors, suspension, breath and isolation. Contemporary Ballet also focuses on dynamic movement and alignment, development of angularity and “line” as well as developing strength, flexibility, stamina and dynamic range of movement.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

This is a ballet-based course for fourth year dance majors working at an intermediate to advanced skill level. It is designed for dance majors seeking a BFA degree within the School of Arts, Media, Performance & design.

In this course there will be a focus on sound technical skill building, understanding ballet through kinetic movement, directed energy to achieve dynamic form and line, use of momentum, creative interpretation and exploration through technical principles and imagery. The course will look at contemporary aesthetic influences which have resulted in certain evolutions in ballet aesthetics.

The class is structured to follow a three-phased approach to preparing the execution of class choreography: 1. Mimesis, 2. Embodiment, 3. Interpretation. Class choreography will combine repetition along with variations on a theme to facilitate student’s familiarity with movement patterns and technical elements as well as developing versatility and efficient assimilation of new choreographic elements within class.

The course will focus on understanding ballet as a multi-directional movement form. Material given in the course will examine the architecture of the body and the use of space. Students will have the opportunity to further develop skills learned through the practice and training in ballet structured class. Classes will engage students in dialogue as well as in physical and anatomical analysis. Students will also learn to apply technical tools and creative concepts in varied contexts. Students will learn how the creative, interpretive aspects of dance run parallel to the physical, technical aspects and how they overlap and inform each other.

The Constellation Points Method™ will be featured during sections of the course to stimulate meta-cognition and further student’s creative interpretive skills.

There will be an emphasis on self-directed learning through the development of vocabulary, musicality, sequencing, and performance skill. Retention of material, and implementation of corrections are expectations that are necessary for progress.

Participation in classroom discussions and regular journaling are also expectations of the course. Reflecting on one’s learning and the practice of clearly formulating these reflections/observations into words is a valuable exercise for advancing learning. Journaling is implemented in the course with the intention of fostering an emotional and intellectual experience alongside the physical work. This encourages a deepening of understanding and stronger recall of important information and concepts.

Course Text /Readings/Viewings:
• **Required text:** *William Forsythe and the the Practice of Choreography*. Edited by Steven Speir, Routledge 2011.

A written essay based on information in the text will be assigned.

The following additional readings/viewings may be assigned or recommended during the course.
• The Dance Current. Toronto: Dance Media Group/Groupe Danse Média. http://www.thedancecurrent.com/ (Available by online and print subscription.)

Required Performances:
• ProArteDanza - Figaro, November 1-3, 7-10, 2018.

*if unable to attend, this performance may be substituted for another professional performance by another company or group.

Please note: There may be special presentations, events, performances, meetings and/or workshops during class time as part of your course schedule (TBA). For the purpose of taking full advantage of the expertise in our Department, you may have other guest faculty, graduate students and/or guest teachers in this course (TBA).

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Course Learning Outcomes Relative to the Department of Dance Degree Level Expectations and Program Learning Outcomes:
The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing basic technical skill, safe practice habits and musical awareness through Contemporary Ballet.

Breadth and depth and application of knowledge
• Develop the ability to synthesize intermediate and advanced material and then apply artistic interpretation to explore variations of expression.
• Develop technical reflexes and problem solving skills in relation to technically challenging movements or steps.
• Enhance choreography through creative interpretation and execution of material
• Explore various ways of working with music
• Increase self-awareness
• Develop greater physical dexterity

Communication skills
• Students will refine physical communication skills through an embodied understanding of artistic presentation and aesthetics
• Students will practice verbal skill through in-class query, discussion and partner work
• Students will be able to effectively express their thoughts and observations through their writing

Self-Awareness and knowledge
• Students will be able to enhance self-awareness through goal-setting and journaling
• Students will simultaneously develop cognitive and meta cognitive processes
• Students will be able to personalize their interpretation of choreography and process appropriate goals to develop an awareness of their physical limitations and thus develop a safe and efficient movement practice

Autonomy and professional capacity
• Students will be able to demonstrate problem-solving capability by addressing challenges in the immediate classwork, and over the longer term through progress and goal attainment during the term.
• Students will be able to access self-directed learning skill
• Students will demonstrate professional conduct at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, committing to respectful behavior and attitudes, towards all colleagues and peers, and contributing to a culture of positive, collaborative and supportive learning inside and outside the studio.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Midterm: Based on all categories as listed below. 15% (unofficial).

Breadth, depth and application of knowledge - 40%
Demonstrated through mindful execution of dynamic alignment, whole body integration, awareness and use of safe dance practices, appropriate coordination and articulation, reliable control, embodiment of movement concepts, effective application of corrections, varied qualities of interpretation of choreography, development of written notation and analysis skill.

Communication - 15% – Non-verbal (Artistry and expression), Verbal (Peer work, Group Discussions), Written (Self-reflection and Journal summary)
Evidenced by embodied and interpreted understanding of artistic presentation and style, musical awareness, good verbal skill in class discussion and partner work, collaborative teaching/learning techniques, and polished written work.

Self-Awareness and knowledge - 10%
Demonstrated by thoughtfully interpreting class choreography, addressing technical and artistic challenges, and engagement with meta-cognitive processes in personal practice including consistent reflective journaling.

Autonomy and professional capacity - 20%
Demonstrated by a high quality of in-class participation, resulting in full and consistent intellectual and physical engagement; practicing expressive presence; effective problem-solving; self-directed learning, respect for peers, musician and instructors; professional dress and conduct.

An average piece of work in university merits a mark in the C+ or B range. Grades go up or down from there depending on the attention and effort applied as well as evidence of tangible change.

N.B. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or School grades distribution profiles.

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://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/, which covers the following topics:


STUDIO COURSES ONLY:
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