EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 6003 0.0 SECTION A
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING PRACTICUM I
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 09/04/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Once a student's MFA dance thesis proposals in contemporary choreography has been accepted, the MFA student is required to present their choreographic research as part of an ongoing discourse into the creative research and into the specific theoretical questions the student has undertaken. There will be a minimum of three (3) qualifying work-in-progress showings for both the students required I AM research and the required proscenium stage research for a total of six (6) practicums. These qualifying practicums will be set-up and organized by the MFA program at least a month in advance of each presentation.

Once a student's MFA dance thesis proposals in contemporary choreography have been accepted, the MFA student is required to present their choreographic research as part of an ongoing discourse into the creative research and into the specific theoretical questions the student has undertaken. There will be a minimum of three (3) professional qualifying work-in-progress showings for the students required I AM research and the student's required proscenium stage research: for a total of six (6) practicums. Organized in conjunction with first year MFA choreography courses, these six work-in-progress practicums are designed to support student's practice-based research as an ongoing process/discourse that infuses and informs the student's creative methodologies, theoretical questions and practical necessities of mounting original choreography as academic research. These professional practicums will also aid the student in honing a language that can communicate their creative methodology and staged outcomes with the theoretical, historical and cultural contexts they are required to articulate in their extended essays and documentation.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

TBD

SPECIAL FEATURES

GS DANC 6003 0.00 Professional Qualifying Practicum | for the MFA 2's.
Fall: 2019, Studio A | Tuesdays and most Wednesdays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Instructor: Darcey Callison PhD, CMA | #317 Accolade Building East | callison@yorku.ca. Office Hours, (most Tuesdays after class, please make an appointment)

This professional qualifying practicum focuses on the theatrical crafting needed to devise, edit, hone, research and perform choreographed events for the theatre, and by extension alternative spaces. The studio practices build on the experiences of the particular students enrolled and ask participants to consider how and which choreographic trends and/or histories inform their work, in order to access how is their choreography is situated within current discourses in the arts.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

A number of opportunities for students to devise choreography as contemporary theatre will be introduced throughout the term. Maintaining that the body and movement are the choreographer’s primary creative materials, the course considers how both historical and current ideas about dance, dancing and staging dance
inform the theatre students are devising. The course also explores how choreography is informed by the environment of the stage, or a specific site, and the matrix-like relationships generated when dancing with objects, costumes, sets, lighting, technology, music/sound, other dancers or performers and the audience.

Short Bibliography of Suggested/Additional Readings.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

The purpose of the course is to introduce MFA Dance students to the ways in which choreography may be utilized as practice-based research.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

The success or failure of a creative project is subjective. Students and the prof. will work
together to agree on the criteria for evaluating each choreographed project performed for this course. However, a rigorous attention to detail, a willingness to think/see differently, an ability to reinvent, reassess and rechoreograph established notions of beauty, theatre, the physical, musicality and imagery are integral for understanding the depth of a choreographic idea, for understanding where there are gaps, and for accessing what more/other or what else is possible. Also, understanding that choreographic content is situated within a cultural moment on a historical continuum is essential for establishing a comprehensive artistic voice: a voice that is in discourse with current dance inquiries, studies, questions and initiatives.

Evaluation:
The is a pass/fail course.

Thoughtful participation, full attendance, respectful communication, leadership, and patience are essential characteristics for all successful graduate study, as is the accurate & thoughtful completion of all assignments. A sense of humor is primary.

Attendance: thoughtful participation is essential. MFA2s attend all classes, complete all readings and viewings, participate in workshops and in a disciplined consideration of MFA1s’ choreographic projects.

Thesis Presentation: this is an concise presentation and workshop focusing on the MFA2s’ current thesis research. Will be discussed with the prof in first week of classes Max. 40 minutes.

Mid-term Paper: devise a choreography course for a second-year dance students at York University. Twelve weeks, two-hours twice a week, twenty-five students.

This contemporary choreography course introduces students to different dance aesthetics, and the use of improvisation as the primary skill for devising original movement vocabulary. The goal is to introduce ways of making original movement choices and devising complete movement phrases. The philosophy informing the course is that movement speaks for and about itself. That movement is enough. In fact, the use of music, text, sound, narrative, costume or character are often distracting when emphasizing movement. It would be great if the course introduced students to the history of contemporary choreographic thinking through.

Enrolled are students with studio-experience choreographing for their friends’ competitive dance events: both ballet and jazz. A few students will have no choreographic experience. At least four students in the class will claim they’ve never improvised. Several students (three) will have trained in non-western dance forms. The students’ skills as dancers vary greatly, but all will have completed first year technique (ballet and modern), as well as the department’s introduction to dance studies.

The mid-term paper includes an outline (like this one) to handout to students: stating the course’s objectives, a short discussion of the types of assignments students can expect, and suggests how the work will be evaluated. Include a complete list of the criteria for evaluation, adding up to 100%.

The course must include a minimum of three required readings, including at least one section from the Doris Humphrey’s *The Art of Making Dances*. Do not use other readings from this MFA choreography course. A short writing assignment and a primary writing assignment.

After the outline, map out a twelve-week schedule with goals for each week and include one detailed class description in which you introduce a new topic, and briefly explain how your introduction prepares students for a choreographic assignment.

In the bibliography include a short summation for the course’s three required readings (max. 30 words each). Times New Roman, Font 12, Double Space, MLA style: make sure pages are numbered, that your name is on each page and everything is stapled together. (maximum 8 pages). Hard copies only, due Tuesday October 8th.

York University Library Dance Research Home Page
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/dance

York University Library Dance Research Guide for Streaming Videos
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/c.php?g=679407&p=4792443
Faculty of Graduate Studies, Current Students (Regulations, Resources, etc.):
http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/

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

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 3, 2020
Last date to drop a Fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 8, 2019
Last date to drop a Winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 13, 2020

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.
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 2019/20 Academic Calendars page:
http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2019-2020/programs/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:
York provides services for students with disabilities (including learning, mental health, physical, sensory, and medical disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University. Students in need of these services are asked to register with Counseling & Disability Services as early as possible to ensure sufficient advance notice so that appropriate academic accommodation(s) can be provided. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs. (https://counselling.students.yorku.ca/)

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs

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