EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Dance
FA / DANC 2226 3.0 SECTIONS M,N
CHOREOGRAPHY
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers further study of the basic principles of dance composition; development of studies toward completed works, and examination of production and performance as it relates to choreography. Continued analytic/critical work of choreographed dances. Prerequisite: FA/DANC 2225 3.00. Corequisite: Current enrolment in dance technique or permission of the department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
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<td>Olafson, Freya</td>
<td>Sec. M / STDO / W</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olafson@yorku.ca">olafson@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

**Course:** FA/DANC 2226 M&N - CHOREOGRAPHY
**Term:** Winter 2020
**Course Instructor:** Freya Björg Olafson
(416) 736-2100 ext 88688, 315 ACE, olafson@yorku.ca

**Time and Location:** Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:00pm ACE 249, 251, & 244
**Office hours:** Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 by appointment, ACE 315
**Course Webpage:** https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/

This course explores the creative process, engaging diverse methods and approaches to create contemporary performance. Improvisation tasks and games are employed each class in order to activate critical engagement with movement, cultivate individual movement vocabulary, and facilitate the development of personal strategies for creation. The course engages experiential and theoretical approaches to understand the craft of choreography; students are guided through collaborative and solo creation, readings, viewings of performances (live and on video) as well as written assignments. Alongside creative assignments, process journaling is used to assist the development of critical reflection. This course expands student knowledge of creating, viewing and discussing performance work through regular engagement with critical response processes. To take full advantage of the expertise in our department and the professional dance community, guest faculty, graduate students and artists will lead and / or be present during sections this course (dates TBA).

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS
Students are encouraged to approach this course as a catalyst for movement research, image creation, performance invention and taking risks. Focusing on the body as an expressive medium; students begin to articulate individual choreographic practice within the classroom community. Although students are allotted time to initiate their composition projects in class, they are expected to structure time outside of class for their creative research and rehearsals.

Throughout the course students 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 with any guests involved throughout the course. Students should arrive open to new experiences, alternative approaches, experimentation as well as constructive criticism. Be prepared to provide a supportive environment for peers to take on new challenges and growth through experimentation and risk. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions.

Note: Bring your journal and a pen to each class, as well as warm clothing as we will move between engaging in discussion and physical learning experiences. Students’ compositional presentations may be videotaped for their own use, as well as serve for course evaluation. Required readings during the term are posted on Moodle; see the ‘Recommended Readings’ and ‘Course Resources’ links on Moodle for a suggested bibliography and online video libraries to deepen knowledge of contemporary international choreographic practices.

**LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF**

Through this course students learn about elements of choreography and composition through practical and theoretical work. Students refine composition skills through observation, discussion, research and critical analysis. To support the development of language for communicating both constructive criticism and art appreciation; observation and critiques of all student work are structured throughout the term. Through discussion and collaboration students participate in empowering one another to grow and take risks. Through creative assignments students explore influences and intersections of various artforms in relation to choreography; they have the option to integrate music, text, costumes, sets, lighting and other design elements in their work. Throughout the course students commit to journaling as a means of articulating, and reflecting upon their understanding of choreographic and creative process.

**GRADED ASSESSMENT**

All physical practice courses are assessed primarily through studio work. Student participation and progress is evaluated by the following criteria: depth of reflection and artistic propositions, quality of work executed, ability to articulate individual process; understanding of historical and theoretical material presented, ability to integrate history and theory to both an overall understanding of the medium and aspects of individual practice; willingness to let go of self-limiting perceptions in artistic process; and clear evidence of sustained focus, effort, and thought applied to coursework. Rubrics for assessment of choreographic and written assignments are available on the course website. Feedback is regularly provided in class through structured critiques. If at any time during the term, questions concerning the course or individual progress remain, an appointment can be made with the course director.

15%  **In-Class Work & Participation**

Attendance, punctuality, concentration, overall effort and commitment, development of ability to discuss choreography, openness to new ideas, willingness and ability to apply new approaches, investment in improvisation and acquisition of new skills, participation in discussion of classmates’ work, following through on readings and videos, positive contribution to collaborative creative processes, respect of peers, guests and professor.

60%  **Choreographic Projects** (15% x 4 projects)

Four choreographic assignments are the major focus for the term. The choreographic projects created for this course must demonstrate an understanding and application of the concepts explored in the studio. While there are course hours to work on the assignments, it is expected that individuals will book additional studio hours
(booked through the dept. office), they are then presented in class to be witnessed and critiqued. Each assignment is thoroughly discussed in class, and examples offered prior to initiation of studio work. Themes and methods for the term include: working with materials / objects introducing ideas from sculpture and visual art practice, proposing and enacting choreographic scores, working with found movement sources, and remixing / editing. Critique dates and assignment details are posted on the course website.

25% Written Component
Details for all written assignments to be discussed in class and posted on the course Moodle site.

Process notes: Submitted for three of the four choreographic projects - student choice for which three choreographic projects they submit notes. Due: roughly 1 week after each project critique. Guidelines will be given in class and deadlines posted on Moodle (three total - each is worth 5%)

Performance Commentary: Students are required to attend a professional performance in Toronto - a list of possible performances will be available on Moodle. Students are required to write a commentary on the event. Prompts leading to responses are provided prior to the performance. Due date to decide which show to see and have it approved by the course director: January 29th, commentary due one week after seeing the selected performance. 10%

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).

Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. For exams, time and date of a make-up test will be arranged with the instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition.

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

Course Withdrawal Period: (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)
Last date for full year (Y) course: February 4 to April 5, 2020
Last date for Fall term (F) course: November 9 to December 3, 2019
Last date for Winter term (W) course: March 14 to April 5, 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.

**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 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:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

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

• Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

• Academic Honesty: http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2019-2020/policies-and-regulations/student-conduct/academic-honesty

• Academic Integrity Site: http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity

• Academic Integrity Tutorial: https://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

• Ethics Review Process: http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/ethics-review-process-for-research-involving-human-participants-policy/

• Alternate Exams/Tests: http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/

• University Secretariat: http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/

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 a 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.

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

Moodle @ York University