EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 3510L3.0 SECTION M
BREAKING AND HIP-HOP DANCE PRACTICES
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 01/17/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers breaking at the intermediate level. This includes creative tasks as students begin to develop their own breaking "sets" alongside methods for approaching their freestyle (improvised) dance practices. Learning outcomes include a critical understanding of the work involved in improvisation and the individual development of preparation strategies for breaking "battles" (competitions). Course objectives include the development of basic competences in performance including strategies for "battle" formats. Students will develop a critical understanding of how concepts and discourses about improvisation are taken up in breaking practices and receptions. Prerequisites: FA/DANC 2510L 3.00 or 2511L 3.00 or permission of the department. Open to non majors.

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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woehrel, Mary</td>
<td>Sec. M / STDO / W</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maryf@yorku.ca">maryf@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22129</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

In this course, students will learn about the fundamentals of breaking techniques. This will involve both critical thinking and physical practice.

Since this is a studio-based course, participation in all aspects of the class from warm-up, to conditioning, technique acquisition, class discussion, workshops and group work, and cool down is essential. Students will be held to strict codes of timeliness and be expected to participate fully throughout this course. Students will also be assigned take home tasks and library reading.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

1. Familiarize students with some of the historical context for both hip hop culture (broadly) and breaking techniques.
2. Empower students to take initiative to build their dance vocabulary through self-reflexive engagement in breaking fundamentals and technique.
3. Fine tune critical thinking about areas of relevance for breaking cultural practices and expressions such as gender equality, queer identity politics, postcolonial theory and its implications for popular / “urban” dance forms and audience value judgments.
4. Enable students to evaluate and assess breaking performances through their acquisition of knowledge about breaking form, structure, aesthetics, meanings and cultural values through both embodied movements and their embodied mind.

You will need to bring comfortable, breathable clothes to dance in, sneakers that do not mark the floors, a water bottle full of water, a small towel for additional sweating, and sneakers. Also, bring a notebook and pen.

Some of the course readings are available through the electronic resources of the library through JSTOR. The rest are available online through google scholar.

Students are expected to rent and watch one movie, Beat Street, which is available through the iTunes store.

**LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF**

**Week One January 6th**
Introduction to the Form
Beat Street. 1984. Film. Directed by Lathan. USA: MGM. 105 min. [ITUNES]

**TOPROCK**

**Week Two January 13**


**TOPROCK AND KICKOUTS/SIX STEP**

**Week Three January 20**

**TOPROCK AND KICKOUTS/SIX STEP/3-STEP/CHAIR**


**Week Four January 27**

Breakbeats quiz.

**TOPROCK AND KICKOUTS/SIX STEP/3-STEP/CHAIR/BABY**


**Week Five Feb 3**

Guest Talk: J-Rebel, Supernaturalz crew

**TOPROCK AND KICKOUTS/SIX STEP/3-STEP/CHAIR/BABY/ROUND THE WORLD**


To Prepare for Class: Find YouTube Clips of: Bag of Trix, Intrikit, Boogie Brats (Toronto), Supernaturalz crews.

Find YouTube Clips of: FLY GIRLS on In Living Color.

**Week Six Feb 10**
Guest Talk Serouj “Midus” Aprahamian


Week Seven   Feb 17  ***NO CLASS

Week Eight   Feb 24

Breaking Technique Assessment: In-class assessment of improvement in breaking technique.


Perillo, J. Lorenzo. “‘This is the Filipino scene for me’: Ethnicity, Gender, and Hip-Hop dance in Hawai ‘i.” Journal of English Studies and Comparative Literature 18.1 (2019).

Watch YouTube clips of SOUL TRAIN

Week Nine   March 2

Guest Talk: Josh Swamy


GRADED ASSESSMENT

Week Ten   March 9


Prepare in advance: In-class demonstration of two “sets” created by student with written/sketched record of sets submitted as well (towards participation grade).

Week Eleven   March 16


Week Twelve   March 23

Essay Due 30%.

Guest talk: Jacqueline Melindy


Week Thirteen   March 30

Final Performance

Week Fourteen   April 6
Guest Workshop: David Olarte, Arizona State University
2510M/3510M/4510M Breaking and Hip Hop Dance Practices

For those enrolled in 3510:
Breakbeats quiz. Identify 10 song titles, artists, album titles and year of release from the breakbeat: 10%
Breaking Technique Assessment. Demonstration of toprocks, 6-step, 3-step and freeze. 20%
Participation 20%
Final Performance. 2 Battles (4 Sets). 20%
Essay 8 double-spaced pages 30%.

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/](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/)

- **Religious Accommodation:**
  http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2019-2020/policies-and-regulations/academic-policies-and-regulations/religious-accommodation

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](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 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