EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 4221 3.0 SECTION M
THE INTERACTIVE STAGE
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 12/17/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Explores the creation of interactive stage environments for live performance. Students will investigate various strategies where-by on-stage 'events' (physical, vocal, physiological, etc.) manipulate audio, video and/or lighting events. Students will be introduced to dedicated interactive and show control software, and become adept at programming interactive environments. Through a contextual survey of the history of intermedial performance, students will develop a critical understanding of the use of digital media in contemporary live performance. Prerequisite: FA/FACS 2936 3.00 or FA/DANC 3220 3.00 or FA/DANC 4220 3.00 or permission of the course director.

Course Listed Courses: DATT 4932, DATT 4932

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>Mackwood, William J</td>
<td>Sec. M / STDO / W</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mackwood@yorku.ca">mackwood@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 33445</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course: FA/DANC 4221 & FA/DATT 4932 3.00 The Interactive Stage: Explorations in electronically mediated performance
Term: Winter 2019-2020
Course Director: William J Mackwood (with Don Sinclair)

Instructor/Format/Term/Contact Info

Course Director
William J Mackwood Office: ACE 323 Telephone: (416) 736-2100 ext: 33445 Cell Phone: (647) 828-0071 Email: mackwood@yorku.ca
Course consultation hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-13:00, or by appointment (or just drop by to chat) ACE323.

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: FA FA/DANC 3220 3.00 or FA/DANC 4220 3.00 or permission of the course director.

Expanded Course Description: This course will explore the creation of interactive stage environments for live performance. Students investigate various strategies whereby on-stage 'events' (physical, vocal, physiological, etc.) may manipulate audio, video and/or lighting events. Students are introduced to dedicated interactive and show control software, and become adept at programming interactive environments. Through a contextual survey of the history of intermedial performance practices and in-class discussions, students develop a critical understanding of the use of digital media in contemporary live performance. In consideration of ever-evolving technologies, students also develop an appreciation for the well-thought-out use of technology within live performance environments: how to program and design digital media that supports live performance.
**Time and Location**

*Lectures:* Friday, 12:00-15:00, ACE 203 (Studio ‘A’) with additional working space in ACE 244 (Studio ‘F’). *Class will begin in ACE 203.*

**Course consultation hours:** Tuesdays 12:00 – 13:00 or by appointment (or just drop by William’s office to chat), ACE 323

**Course Webpage:** https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/

**TOPICS AND CONCEPTS**


*Note:* Additional readings will be assigned or recommended during the course.

All weekly lecture content, quizzes, assignments, readings and presentations are listed on the course website.

**LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF**

This course offers students experience in programming and implementation of advanced motion-capture and digital media control. Students will have access to a wide range of digital technology (projectors, video cameras, 3d cameras and laptop computers), used to create interactive visual elements with software programs Max and VUO. They will also gain experience in the use of the latest in conventional and LED performance lighting systems and projection control (QLab4), and audio manipulation (Max and QLab4). Most importantly, research artists/students will be able to develop media content; image and sound integration simultaneously with live performance throughout the developmental, choreographic, and rehearsal process. Finally, this course advances the integration of advanced digital design technology initiatives supported by York University, and the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design.

Additionally, students will examine and develop modalities whereby *media animators* and *animator performers* work collaboratively to produce a unified vision.

**Learning Objectives:**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Critically discuss strategies for the use of digital interactive technology in live performance.
- Develop and demonstrate skills in the use of existing hardware/software, and/or develop their own digital tools for the creation of interactive stage environments.
- Demonstrate skills in trouble-shooting interactive systems.
- Develop their ability to contribute to, and work collaboratively within, a creative team.
- Demonstrate their ability to plan joint projects and meet their respective deadlines.
- Self-examine the process by which the collaborative team worked, identifying strengths, weaknesses and offer strategies for improvement.

**GRADED ASSESSMENT**

**Evaluation:**

- ‘Attendance and Participation’ in discussions and lab work - 15%
- Mid-Term exam - 25%
- Term Project and incremental Presentations (group assessment) - 40%
- Final Written Report (individual assessment) - 20%
- **Total - 100%**

*Note:* “Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.”
Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests:

Undergraduate Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York. For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar at: https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2018-2019/academic-and-financial-information/academic-information/grades-and-grading-schemes

Undergraduate Grading System: students of FA/DANC 4221 & FA/DATT 4932 are graded according to the following scale. The numerical grade point values are used to compute averages. The Definition of Grading Descriptions will be used to assess performance.

A+, GP 9, 90-100%, Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill or great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A, GP 8, 80-89%, Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+, GP 7, 75-79, Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B, GP 6 70-74%, Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+, GP 5, 65-69%, Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C, GP 4, 60-64%, Fairly Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D+, GP 3, 55-59%, Passing. Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and/or techniques together with some ability to use them in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

D, GP 2, 50-54%, Barely Passing. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

E, GP 1, (marginally below 50%), Marginally Failing.

F, GP 0, (below 50%), Failing.

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be submitted on the due date at the beginning of class unless stated otherwise (some assignments and quizzes will be submitted on-line). Late assignments must be turned in to the Dance Department office and DATE STAMPED.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one half-grade point for each day the assignment is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but might 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. A later time to write a make-up test will be booked under the discretion of the Course Director. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

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.

Considerations for Group Projects: this course depends heavily on collaborative teamwork being accomplished outside of class-time. You can expect to spend up to 4 hours/wk on developing software applications, devising performance content and rehearsing outside of class time that will then be presented in
class. The other members of your team are depending on you to contribute your time and creative energy. Work hard to ensure you can talk about your contributions to the success of the project.

"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.

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:

"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 Maise and faculty member Claire Wooten 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

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