EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
DANCE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Dance Department
FA / DANC 5221 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 investigate various strategies whereby on-stage ‘events’ (physical, vocal, physiological, etc.) manipulate audio, video and/or lighting events. Students are introduced to dedicated interactive and show control software, and become adept at programming interactive environments. Prerequisite: FA/FACS 2936 3.00 or FA/DANC 3220 3.00 or FA/DANC 4220 3.00 or equivalent or permission of the Instructor.

Course Listed Courses: THEA 5221

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>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course: GS DANC 5221 and GS THEA 5221 3.00 The Interactive Stage: Explorations in electronically mediated performance

Term: Winter 2019-2020

Course Director: William J Mackwood (with Don Sinclair)

Course Directors

William J Mackwood Office: ACE 323 Telephone: (416) 736-2100 ext: 33445 Email: mackwood@yorku.ca

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’) additional working space ACE 244 (Studio ‘F’). Class will usually begin in ACE 203.

Course consultation hours: Tuesdays 12:00 – 13:00 or by appointment (or just drop by to chat) ACE323.

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**

**Course Learning Objectives**

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**

Preamble: Graduate students enrolled in GS/DANC 5221 and GS/THEA 5221 will be expected to engage and perform at a higher level than undergraduate students. In areas of participation, they will be expected to lead discussion groups and research projects, and when appropriate, offer direction and support to undergraduate students. As the field of interactive live-performance technology is changing at an exponential rate, graduate students participating in the course will also be asked to actively participate in on-going discussions regarding course content and structure, ensuring critical relevance to the art and industry. It is expected that Graduate students will perform all assigned tasks with a dedicated commitment to excellence and therefore they will be graded to a higher standard than undergraduate students.

**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:** Additional Research Paper or Presentation or Interactive Application for Graduate Students: 30%
NOTE: “Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.”

**Graduate Grading System:** For a full description of York grading system see the York University Graduate Studies Regulations at:
http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/courses-grading - gradesincourses
Graduate students of GS/DANC 5221 & GS/THEA 5221 3.00 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+, 90–100%, Exceptional**
- **A, 85–89%, Excellent**
- **A-, 80–84%, High**
- **B+, 75–79%, Highly Satisfactory**
- **B, 70–74%, Satisfactory**
- **C, 60–69%, Conditional**
- **F, 0–59%, Failure**
- **I, N/A, Incomplete**

**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.

**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/

**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)
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 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 into 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.)

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