COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces students to the scholarly world of dance studies and provides them with critical tools in making sense of dance and the cultural, historical, and artistic milieux in which it is produced. It explores dance in the contexts of culture, ritual, power, identities, embodiment, and memory/reconstruction.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcedo, Russ Patrick</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alcedo@yorku.ca">alcedo@yorku.ca</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 22131</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

FA/DANCE 1340 A 3.00 - Introduction to Dance Studies

Introduces students to the scholarly world of dance studies and provides them with critical tools in making sense of dance and the cultural, historical, and artistic milieux in which it is produced. It explores dance in the contexts of culture, ritual, power, identities, embodiment, and memory/reconstruction.

- **Instructor:** Dr. Russ Patrick Alcedo, Associate Professor, Department of Dance

- **Format:** Blended: Asynchronous (Recorded) Lectures and Synchronous Tutorials

- **Term:** Fall 2020

- **Contact Information:** alcedo@yorku.ca

**Time and Location:**
- Mondays 2:30-4 (Lecture via eClass)
- Wednesdays 1-2:30 (Tutorial 1 via Zoom on eClass)
- Wednesdays 2:30-4 (Tutorial 2 via Zoom on eClass)
- Wednesdays 4-5:30 (Tutorial 3 via Zoom on eClass)

**Expanded Description**

This blended course introduces students to the scholarly world of dance studies and provides them with critical tools in making sense of both the ephemeral nature and permanent markings of dance. It considers dance as an academic “text”; and the body is understood in the cultural, historical, and artistic contexts in which it is and was produced. Acknowledging the necessity of looking at dance from an interdisciplinary perspective, the course examines a wide array of materials that comprise what we now call “dance studies.” Students are provided with the opportunity to read and discuss essays on criticism, cultural anthropology,
history, cultural studies, gender, race, ethnicity, and education or pedagogy. Since viewing and seeing dance are important in understanding the moving body, the course also screens films and video footage and requires analyzing a live dance performance and writing a short biography of a Canadian dance artist or a profile of a Canadian dance company or group.

Partnered by written publications, films and videos, dance events, and individual research, the course taps into the enduring cultural and historical meanings of dance and interrogate as well how an embodied form such as dance changes over time due to external factors like modernity, travel, and tourism. Taking an interdisciplinary approach further enriches the way dancers and scholars perceive dance and affirms the importance of looking at dance from the various points of view of not only the past but also the contemporary present.

Schedule

Week 1 September 14:
Orientation: Syllabus, Course Description, Requirements, Readings, Films and Videos
Theories and Methods of Dance

Week 2 September 21:

Week 3 September 28:

Week 4 October 5:

Week 4: October 7: Discussion of SPARK https://spark.library.yorku.ca/

Week 5: October 12: NO CLASS: READING WEEK

- Week 6 October 19:  
  • Lecture-Demonstration on Philippine Folk Dance

- Week 6 October 21: Submission of First Paper

- Week 7 October 26: FIRST QUIZ (via eClass)

- Week 8 November 2:  

Week 9 November 9:  

Week 10 November 16:  

Week 11 November 23:  
Week 11 November 25 SUBMISSION OF SECOND PAPER

Week 12 November 30:


Week 13 Dec 7: SECOND QUIZ (via eClass)

Graded Assessment

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation, Attendance, Weekly Writings</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Paper</td>
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<td>2nd Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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- Additional Information
  - Each of the two papers should be between 3-4 pages, double-spaced, and should only be 1,000 to 1,200 words in length. Written in an essay format, the two papers should responsibly cite sources and demonstrate careful online research.
  - 1st paper will be a review of a dance film of your own choosing. Your choice should be either a feature-length documentary or fiction film. There are so many of choices on the York Library online resources, and on other streaming sources such as Netflix, if you have access to those.
  - 2nd paper will be a biography of a Canadian dancer or profile a dance company or group that is based in Canada of your own choosing.
  - These two papers should consistently relate to the concepts learned in class, found in the Course Kit, and shared during lecture and tutorials. Attached to your papers should be a bibliography of the citations you have used following the MLA style.
  - Papers are required to be handed in on time. If you submit your papers late—and to be fair to your colleagues—your grade will be dropped to a full point, i.e. from an ‘A’ to a ‘B+’ or a ‘B’ to a ‘C+’, etc.

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

Moodle @ York University