EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

DANCE

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Dance

FA / DANC 2215 3.0 SECTION A
CONTEMPORARY/MODERN DANCE FORMS
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

Last Modified Date: 08/11/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers ongoing training to develop artistic expression, modern dance vocabulary, musicality and performance skills. Required of dance majors seeking the BFA degree. Prerequisites: FA/DANC 1216 3.00 and permission of the department.

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>Hector, Syreeta</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:syreetacherylhector@gmail.com">syreetacherylhector@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>York Ext. 44651</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Director: Syreeta Hector
Course Email: shector@yorku.ca
Virtual Office Hours: by appointment via email
Prerequisite: Please note it is assumed that participants in this course will have a strong and professional technical movement practice.

Throughout this course, the student will learn the movement fundamentals developed by Martha Graham. They will learn about the history of the Martha Graham as an artist, as well as the importance of her technique and choreography today. Essential movement concepts within the technique like contractions, use of breath, spirals within the body, and coordination of the arms and legs will be a focus.

Because this course will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning, it will be critical to have a private safe space for moving, stable internet connection, webcam, and microphone. Additionally, the ability to participate and communicate through verbal conversation, be seen within the class, and actively articulate thoughts through written discussion will be crucial for this course.

The course material will be taught through a pre-recorded video on Tuesday, and then the material will be danced and detailed over the course of the week. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the class will be divided into two sections. The first section will be physical dancing, and the second section of the class will be separated into theory, question and answer periods, individual and group feedback assignments, as well as research professional development activities. Guest artists and field work activities may occur over the term.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

The technique and repertoire of Martha Graham will be the focus of this term. Sessions will touch on the history of Martha Graham, her company, as well as discuss her influence on Canadian dance. Movement
material will be introduced and added throughout the course so punctuality, participation, professionalism, and attendance is crucial. Having a strong warm up and cool down practice will be established and cultivated to suit the dancers needs. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a strong technical base of Graham technique. By the end of the course, the student will have the knowledge of body alignment, spatial orientations, and movement qualities that are commonly associated with Graham technique and choreography. The investigation and translation of movement initiations and qualities through physical demonstration and verbal dialogue will be accomplished. The ability to self direct, independently evaluate, and encourage the dancer mind set and physicality will take place. Through out the course, the student will be expected to confidently and independently demonstrate the technical style within their body, as well as articulate through words movement qualities, and actions in verbal and written form.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Breadth and Depth of Knowledge: 20% 
By the end of this course students will be able to:

Demonstrate proper alignment, body awareness, coordination, articulation of the torso, legs and feet, integration of body moving, physical initiations, endurance, eye line, use of breath, flexibility, performance qualities, and dynamics.

Detect and articulate musical form changes and rhythm changes.

Application of Knowledge: 25%
By the end of this course students will be able to:

Execute an ability to pick up material fast and efficiently.

Recognize and consistently undergo artistic expression, athleticism and risk-taking within every exercise.

Practice attention to detail, physical commitment and critical personal assessment both in a positive and challenging light.

Knowledge of Methodologies:
By the end of this course students will be able to:

Achieve awareness of Martha Graham technique/ choreography in connection to Toronto and the Toronto dance community.

Identify, analyze and discuss movements within technical exercises in a contemporary professional dance manner.

Describe musicality, dynamics and identify the relationship that movement has to the music.

Communication (Performance/ Written): 5%+5%
By the end of this course students will be able to:

(For details of Written Assignment see the Written Component Guidelines Below)

Be aware of local contemporary artists, dance festivals, shows and workshops within the Toronto community.

Carry out positive and critical self evaluation before, during and after class.

Interpret and internalize group and individual corrections within the class.

Professional Capacity/ Autonomy: 15%
By the end of this course students will be able to:

Prepare written documents in a professional and on time manner.

Carry out proactiveness within the community in order to further develop new pathways for physicality and to explore potential future career opportunities.
Awareness of Limitations of Knowledge: 5%

By the end of this course students will be able to:

**Undergo** professional proactivity for injury and limitations.

**Demonstrate** self directed care for injury prevention before, during, and after the course is finished every day. **This must be sensitivity considered given your schedule and space.**

**Recommended Reading and Podcasts:**

**Readings:**

Irene Dowd “Taking Root to Fly: Articles on Functional Anatomy”

Andrea Watkins and Priscilla Clarkson “Dancing Longer/ Dancing Stronger”

Ruth Solomon and John Solomon “Preventing Dance Injuries”

**Podcasts:**

“Being An Artist is F*** Killing Me” by Raine Kearns and Corynne Bison

“Joyous Health Podcast” by Joy McCarthy

“Code Switch” by Shereen Marisol Merjaji and Gene Demby

“Call Your Girlfriend” by Ann Friedman and Aminatou Sow


**Written Component Guidelines- Due during the week of November 2nd 2020**

Write a brief book report on Martha Graham’s Autobiography called Blood Memory and respond to the following questions: (3-4 pages)

1. Why has the book been written?
2. Does this writer comment on ideas around work ethic? Can you relate?
3. How does this writing influence you as an artist and dancer?
4. How does this writing influence you as a creator and choreographer?
5. What concepts within the book are highly applicable today? How could you potentially implement them into your practice?

**GRADED ASSESSMENT**

20% Breadth, Depth of Knowledge

25% Application of Knowledge

10% Knowledge of Methodologies

10% Communication

15% Professional Capacity/ Autonomy

5% Awareness of Limitations

15% Midterm Mark

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If a student is injured throughout the duration of the course, it is incumbent on them to modify the movement and engage in as much of the class as possible.

Body conditioning tools like a foam roller, theraband, yoga block, and massage tennis balls will be discussed and recommended. Please consider borrowing or purchasing some of these items as they may provide
additional support for movement and alignment practices.

FAQs About Remote and Online Learning in Dance:

How can I best prepare my space for weekly live zoom technique classes?

• **Space:** Find a space in your home that you can allocate for your daily physical practice that is as large a space as possible, free from distractions and safety hazards. This means you might need to push coffee tables and couches back or furniture off to the side. Consider the time it may take to prepare your space in advance of the live zoom session so you are prepared to begin dancing promptly at 8:45 am.

• **Tidy Up:** An uncluttered learning space supports an uncluttered mind. Consider how you can best promote focus and concentration.

• **Consider the room temperature:** Having the room too hot during dance class can dehydrate the body. Conversely, a cold drafty room may also prevent you from effectively warming muscles and having a productive class. If temperature cannot be controlled, be sure to dress accordingly. Have a water bottle nearby to stay hydrated without needing to leave the space.

• **Aim for privacy in your practice:** These are challenging times in which multiple family members are sharing small spaces. Work out in advance with those you live with to ensure minimal to no traffic while dancing if at all possible. This is not the time for siblings, family members, roommates or even pets to be sitting around watching, offering input/feedback [maybe not the pets]. These university dance classes are for you and for only you to participate. Work to ensure you have as much privacy as possible during your 45 mins. of synchronous learning on zoom.

• **Aim to wear the appropriate dance attire:** While it might not seem necessary to put on your dance attire, and it may even be tempting to wear your pajamas or lounge wear, refrain from this practice. Putting on the appropriate dance uniform and the correct footwear, with hair secure (as you would when you attend an in-person class) is exceptionally important to developing the necessary focus, discipline you will need once this remote delivery ends. Cultivating this discipline will also promote a positive sense of self. Look like a dancer, feel like a dancer, act as a dancer!

• **Pre-class warm-up is essential:** While this is not business as usual, our collective goal needs to be developing a safe physical practice and while we may not have the dance spaces we are used to, developing a warm-up routine will be essential for one’s daily physical practice a multitude of reasons. Begin the year with the warm-up sequences you are familiar with; however, much of the first-year experience will offer you many new dynamic ways to effectively warm the body in preparation for class that you will be expected to adopt and adapt to your daily warm-up routine.

• **Eliminate reasons to leave your dance area:** Just as you would in our dance studios, tend to all personal needs prior to remote – online class. Go to the bathroom, and have a snack before class.

• **Choose your zoom devise wisely and elevate your screen:** Think in advance what device you will take your zoom with and ensure this devise is charged and ready to go each morning. If you need to continuously look down at your device to see the teacher, you are practicing poor posture and will develop bad habits that can cause injury over time. If watching an iPad or laptop, be sure to elevate these devises to eye level or above. Shelving, stands or a pile of books can help with this OR use an HDMI cord to connect your device to a large tv screen. If using an iPad or MAC you may need an adapter.

• **Turn off all other devises:** Ensure all other devises that bing, ring, buzz or distract you during your zoom class time are turned off. Give yourself permission to focus on only one device at a time to ensure you are absorbing as much as you can in the asynchronous time frame.

• **Set up Early:** Don’t wait to the last minute to sign-in and set up. Invariably this is when you will run into technical difficulties! The temptation, since one does not have a formal commute to class, is to wait to the last minute to set up for one’s synchronous classes. Being to sign in at least 10 mins. minutes before class to allow for technology hiccups, forgotten passwords, etc. It is especially hard to jump into a dance class late.

• **Be as close to your internet modem as possible:** To help with internet speed. Ask family members to refrain from using the internet/downloads during your class time (it’s only 30-45 minutes!) A wifi extender may be helpful if you are struggling with lagging. See page 2 and 3 of the course outline for how to conduct modem speed tests in advance of the course to ensure your hardware and software are running at their optimum.
Work to stay motivated and engaged in small and large group work: Once class work has been set there will be opportunities during synchronous zoom time for us to work in small groups / breakout rooms. Aim to stay focused on the given task (as you would in a regular face to face classroom space) and be prepared to direct your attention back to the group quickly in order to maintain the remote classroom pace. Respect and support your peers by staying focused. This means that there are times when one must put aside personal feelings to maintain an optimal work environment. This will count towards your on-line autonomy and professional capacity grade.

Music and Musicians: We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding musicians at York University’s Department to Dance. When possible we will have the added benefit of live musical accompaniment for many of our synchronous zoom sessions. Be sure to show your respect to our invaluable musicians by acknowledging their presence, gratitude for their work, music and classroom support through positive feedback, silence when they play and applause at the end of class. Note that there may be time lags, pauses that result in live accompaniment via zoom. We need to work through these with the utmost professionalism and patience.

Absence of live music: There may be times when we either will not have a musician or we need to work silently or work with a pre-recorded music. 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.

Be patient and be kind with yourself, your loved ones and your colleagues: We are all new to learning dance in this way. This set up is not perfect or seamless, but we are all, including you, trying our best. Be patient with technology and most especially be patient with things beyond anyone’s control. These means having to become patient with your internet, since it is is in demand more than ever. Anticipate glitches and rejoice when things do work as they are supposed to work. Be patient with your teachers, this is new for them too and most importantly, be patient with yourself. You may have gone weeks, months without dance class and it will take time to get back to where you were and it will take some time to get used to dancing in this way. Adjust expectations of yourself, your program, your colleagues and your instructors. This does not mean a lowering of standards but rather perhaps the time frame in which you meet them. You are also likely facing more challenges and more distractions than you ever have before. Your body and mind are understandably exhausted from all the change and setbacks you have endured. Keep trying your best and know that it’s ok if your best is not where you want it to be right now. We promise to be patient with you too. Clear open communication is key and more importantly constructive and respectful feedback on ways we can all improve.

Missed Synchronous zoom class? We know that things may happen beyond your control that may prevent you from taking a synchronous class. You may need to tend to a sick loved one, your internet connection may fail, your internet connection may suddenly stop working. Please know that all zoom sessions will be recorded and YOU WILL NOT BE penalized for missing a synchronous class. You are however responsible to check in with your course director should this occur.

What if I am in a different time zone. If you are in a different time zone please let your course director know as soon as possible if you anticipate that this will affect your ability to participate in synchronous learning. Alternate arrangements will be made with you and your Course Director.

How and where do I submit my assignments?

- Why should I do both with synchronous class if the class is recorded? The reason is to a) develop the necessary rhythm and discipline you will need when we return to class b) you will benefit greatly from the community connection that will evolve from both your synchronous and asynchronous work. c) Your professional autonomy grade will be based on your proactive response to challenges (not attendance), your desire to promote and support individual and community well-being AND your consistent and open communication with the course director, the TA and your peers. is not in your benefit to not participant with the group learning process. So while you will not be penalized for a missed synchronous class, it is imperative that you are in consistent communication with your course director’s and TA’s on your involvement and progression in the course and any challenges that arise during this remote on-line learning experience. HELP US HELP you but staying in touch!!!!

Emailed or hard copy submissions will not be accepted. It is in your best interest to adhere to deadlines so that you do not fall behind.
What are the ground Rules and Expectations for On-line and Remote Learning?

- We are all aware that professional behaviour maintains the integrity of the teaching/learning environment and fosters a sense of community. This includes appropriate dress, work habits and punctuality. Professional behaviour is respectful of the on-line remote dance space, the art form, and fellow artists and is, therefore, expected of all participants.

- Your personal work habits impact on the atmosphere and progress of the entire class. This can translate even via zoom. Dancing in a distracted non-committed away will not only affect you but your colleagues. Work to cultivate a group and individual work ethic that will transition and translate into the dance studio for when we return. This includes support a positive self and group talk about one’s self, peers, faculty and program that are all doing the best they can!

- Keep a personal record of your attendance and participation for verification at the end of the course. While attendance in this temporary remote and on-line learning environment is not formally taken, it is important that you are keeping track of your own developing physical practice. Aim to cultivate a strong daily autonomous physical practice with and without our formal zoom time.

How to I ensure I am prepared for class each week?

- At the university level, students are expected to review course material between classes. As a result, many full courses at the university suggest that for every hour of practice, students should engage in 2-3 hours of study. Course material is to be rehearsed on a regular basis before the next class.

- Absence from class is not an excuse for being unfamiliar with the material. If you are unable to attend synchronous zoom time, please ensure you view the pre-recorded class work and work in your asynchronous time to material before you return to class.

- Our contemporary dance classes are designed to help develop the dancer’s technique and artistry, not solely to keep the dancer in shape. Therefore, body conditioning techniques will only be covered in the first portion of each term. Thereafter, it is the student’s responsibility to continue training with these conditioning techniques outside of class time to maintain general core support, muscle tone and optimal health free from injury and avoid unnecessary strain.

Physical Demands: 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.

Required Commitment to Ongoing Training: 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 throughout the entire year.

Important University Sessional Dates (classes start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, etc.)

York University Grading System

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. 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.

Add/Drop Dates:
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 5, 2021
Last date to drop a Fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 6, 2020
Last date to drop a Winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 12, 2021

Course Withdrawal Period: (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)
Last date for full year (Y) course: February 6 to April 12, 2021
Last date for Fall term (F) course: November 7 to December 8, 2020
Last date for Winter term (W) course: March 13 to April 12, 2021

Please note that financial deadline dates differ from add/drop deadlines.

York University Academic Senate Policies and Information:
All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Policies and Regulations information which can be found in the Academic Calendar. 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/)

- 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.
• Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities
• Academic Honesty
• Academic Integrity
• Ethics Review Process
• Alternate Exams/Tests
• University Secretariat

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

Moodle @ York University