



SYLLABUS: Dance As Art (80627)

DANC 1372

Fall 2017

Meeting Time: T/TH 8-9:20

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Joshua Manculich - Assistant Professor of Dance
 Office: GPAC 150 H
 Office Hours: T/TH, 9:30-11, Friday: 12:30-2:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"Each moment of watching a dance can be read as the product of choices, inherited, invented, or selected...."

**Susan Leigh Foster
 (Choreographing Empathy)**

This course is a survey exploring dance as an art form. Through lecture, reading, watching, writing, and creative activities, we will address what is dance? consider dance as art? and how it has impacted society. Gerald Jonas, in the **required** text *Dancing: The Pleasure, Power, and Art of Movement*, reminds the reader that dance is an especially powerful form of expression "because its vehicle is the human body."

https://www.amazon.com/Dancing-Pleasure-Power-Art-Movement/dp/0810927918/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1503575506&sr=8-1&keywords=dancing+the+pleasure+power+and+art+of+movement

By the end of this course, students will:

- o Improve their ability to think and write (about dance)
- o Improve their ability to articulate opinions (about dance)
- o Sharpen their observation and movement analysis skills
- o Better their ability to historically contextualize dance
- o Refine their ability to conduct research
- o Create an original, personal, written definition of dance
- o Demonstrate an appreciation for the creative artifacts and works of the human imagination related to various dance forms
- o Analyze dance in its many artistic forms: religious, historical, political, social and theatrical
- o Gain exposure to contemporary dance choreographers of this generation
- o Consider and evaluate their responsiveness to art/conversation
- o Attend on campus events through the lens of contemporary dance
- o Contextualize the course's information into their own course of study

REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:

Participation (100pts)

Participation goes **BEYOND** attending class. It includes active involvement with in-class discussions, engagement with course ideas, and physical commitment to class. SHOW UP!

Reading/Writing Assignments (350pts 7 postings at 50 pts each)

Reading and deadlines on Blackboard. Each response should be no fewer than 250 words and demonstrate engagement with the reading.

Grades for discussion posts will be based upon the following:

- o comprehension of reading
- o examination of reading
- o ability to create context around the assigned reading

Concert Attendance (50pts 2 attendances at 25 pts each)

Students are required to attend two concerts, gallery exhibitions, and/or show:

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/fine-arts-and-mass-communication/news-and-events/box-office.html>

Department of Dance <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/dance/current-students/events.html>

School of Music <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/events-and-special-events/>

Department of Theater <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/theatre/tickets/>

Department of Art <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/events/>

In Class Work/Exam (200pts)

Students will be shown a film(s) in class. The in-class exam will ask the student to write about the film, demonstrating the ability to think and write about dance. This is an assessment to see if the student has sharpened their observation and movement analysis skills.

Final Research Project (300pts)

FINAL Presentation:

Define dance in a group of 2 or more anchoring the definition in what the class has learned and what was inherent:

- o Use three outside written sources
- o Use three outside video sources
- o Will exist in the form of a Powerpoint presentation

GRADING (1000pts)

- **A** = Consistent, generous, thoughtful, curious involvement in classroom material - extraordinary improvement - overall exemplary performance of course objectives **(100-90)**
- **B** = Consistent involvement in classroom material - gaining an understanding of the material presented daily - overall above average performance of course objectives **(89-80)**

- **C** = Lack of consistency in classroom material - not gaining an understanding of the material presented daily - minimal improvement - average performance of course objectives (**79-70**)
- **D** = Failing to participate in classroom material - not demonstrating or gaining an understanding of material presented daily - no improvement due to lack of concentrated effort- failing to take corrections - Below average performance of course objectives (**69-60**)
- **F** = Inability to keep up with class work due to excessive absences (**<60**)

DANCE DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY - Attendance is necessary in order to review the information on the units/chapters and complete the assignments, most of which will be completed in class. Absences for official university functions may be excused provided that the student requests this accommodation before the absence occurs and presents official documentation. Professional opportunities will be assessed by the professor's discretion. In the case of illness, emergency or religious observation, you must contact the professor in writing to receive an accommodation.

TARDY POLICY - Being tardy consistently will result in...

CELL PHONE POLICY - No cell phones are allowed in class. Any student using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave class.

DANCE PROGRAM CASTING POLICY - Students who make grades lower than B in dance technique classes or F in dance academic courses will be ineligible for casting in the Dance Spectrum Concert the following semester.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY - All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT - Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

VISITOR(S) TO THE CLASSROOM - Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT - It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and email disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY - Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.