

# Course Syllabus

<b>Course Number and Title:</b>	<b>DANC 5371 – Theory of Dance</b>
<b>Course Credit:</b>	<b>3 Semester Credit Hours</b>
<b>Semester/ Year:</b>	<b>Fall 2017</b>
<b>Location:</b>	GPAC 240
<b>Class Meeting Times:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dana E. Nicolay
<b>Office Location:</b>	GPAC 150 I
<b>Contact Information:</b>	
	Phone: 294-1310
	Email: <a href="mailto:nicolay@shsu.edu">nicolay@shsu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 8:00 am – 10:00 AM; T-Th 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

## Textbooks:

Dewey, John. Art as Experience

Langer, Susanne K. Philosophy in a New Key

Other Assorted essays and monographs

## Course Description:

In this course students will explore the philosophical underpinnings of dance and culture. This will include an investigation of dance as a fine art, the place of dance in culture historically, the role of human movement in everyday communications, and the semantic process that informs all of the above. Through reading two major theories of art – both of which are still relevant – the student will develop a life-time substrate for analyzing philosophically oriented literature on art and dance.

The course will be conducted according to the university's policies on Academic Honesty, Student Absences due to religious holidays, availability to the disabled, and allowing unregistered people to attend.

## Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course the student will -

- have developed the ability to think, speak, and write clearly about the philosophical context within which the art form of dance is conducted.
- have developed a consistent perspective from which to assess artistic quality and values.
- have a deepened appreciation for dance in all of its manifestations.
- have developed an awareness of the place of dance within the arena of the arts.
- be able to apply the above skills to his or her own artistic process and teaching.
- Have a cursory understanding of existential phenomenology, Gestalt psychology of perception and the roots and principles of art and design.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The goal of this course is for the student to integrate the concepts addressed into her or his intellectual perspective regarding dance as an art form. The content is dense and will require diligent focus, attention, and digestion. Consistent attendance is essential to this process. Given these considerations, regular, prompt attendance is expected. However, the penalty for missing class will be only that the student has missed the opportunity to engage in the

discussion of the material at hand and will therefore be less capable of achieving excellence in the mastery of the material. That mastery will be assessed by way of the written assignments, tests and other grading criteria identified below. There will be no direct penalty for absences. Should the student acquire an excessive number of absences, however, he or she will be advised to drop the course.

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

**Grading Policy** – The course grade will be based on student performance in the following course activities

**1) Daily Participation and Weekly Assignments** – Students are expected to come to class prepared to present, challenge, and defend concepts and positions that emerge during the course of discussion. As a matter of course, every student will be assigned particular aspects of the readings for the day to paraphrase and present their understanding of the content. These paraphrases may be presented in narrative, outline or mind map form. Whichever you choose you must be able to verbally communicate and defend your summary.

**2) Written Papers** – Students will write four papers discussing philosophical, semantic and/or cultural aspects of dance. Topics will be chosen from lists that will be provided over the course of the semester. You will have the opportunity to submit a rough draft of the first paper for feedback before the final version is submitted for grading. All papers must be typewritten, double-spaced using a 12-point font type, and with minimum margins of one inch.

1. On the day that a paper is due you must bring a copy of your paper for every member of the class, plus two for the instructor – one to be graded and returned and one to be kept on file. You will read your paper to the class.
2. The first three papers can be no longer than 600 words, and must completely cover the topic you have chosen. If you cannot cover the topic in 600 words, narrow the scope of the paper so that you can.
3. There is no limit on the fourth paper, but it must be researched to cover relevant premises and it must be submitted for publication to a journal of your choice. At the time that it is due you must turn in your paper with the proper cover letter (addressed to the appropriate editor by name and title), postage and return postage, and the required number of copies in the required format for the journal to which you are submitting your paper. The package will be mailed for you. If you are submitting to an online journal, your submission must be forwarded or blind-copied to the instructor during the day before the class during which the paper will be presented.
4. All papers must address a philosophical problem from the list provided. First come, first served. No paper can address a problem already addressed by someone else in the class.

Journals of interest to this class – *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Philosophical Review*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Forum*, *American Art Journal*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Art Journal*, *Art Quarterly*, *Dance Research Journal*, *Contact Quarterly*, *Dance Research Journal*.

**3) Abstracts** – To help you become familiar with the content and style of the various journals to which you might submit your final paper, you will be required to read three articles from three different journals. After reading each article you will prepare and present an abstract of the article to the class.

#### 4) Written Mid-Term Examination

#### 5) Written Final Examination

**TESTING POLICY** –The Mid-term and the Final examinations will be timed open note essay in form. Each examination will be conducted in one three-hour sitting. During class-time we will discuss and agree upon a time at which the examinations will be administered during the week designated for the test. At the prescribed time, the instructor will email the examination to each student. Each student must immediately respond to me by email confirming that they have received the examination. Students will then email their completed tests at or before the designated time for completion. The instructor will immediately email confirmation that the completed test has been received. Students may not collaborate during any aspect of this process.

**Grade Composition** – The course grade will be calculated using the following rubric:

	% of component grade		% of course grade
1) Daily Participation/ Weekly Assignments			25%
2) Written Papers			
#1	10% of this component		
#2	20% of this component		
#3	30% of this component		
#4	40% of this component		
Written Papers Total		100%	20%
3) Abstracts			10%
4) Written Mid-Term Test			20%
5) Written Comprehensive Final Exam			25%
Course Grade Total			100%

# DANC 5371 Theory of Dance - Course Outline

Subject to change pending class progress.

Tuesday	Thursday
8/22 Pre-Semester Meeting – Course Introduction/ Syllabus  Assign Paraphrase Partners Week 1	8/24 Introduction to the course Assign Paraphrase Partners Class #1 1
8/29 Dewey; Chapter 1- Paraphrase Week 2	8/31 Langer; Chapter 1 - Paraphrase Class #3 2
9/5 Dewey; Chapter 2 - Paraphrase Abstract #1 due. Week 3	9/7 Langer; Chapter 2 - Paraphrase Class #5 3
9/12 Dewey; Chapter 3 Rough Draft of Paper #1 due. Week 4	9/4 Langer; Chapter 3 Class #7 4
9/19 Dewey; Chapter 4 Week 5	9/21 Langer; Chapter 4 – Abstract #2 due. Class #9 5
9/26 First Paper Readings Week 6	9/28 First Paper Readings Class #11 6
10/3 No Class Prepare for Mid-Term Examination Week 7	10/5 Mid-Term Examination Class #13 7
10/10 Dewey Chapter 5 Week 8	10/12– Langer Chapter 5 – Abstract #3 Due. Class #15 8
10/17 Dewey Chapters 6, 7 and 8 Week 9	10/19 Langer Chapter 6 Class #17 9
10/24 Second Paper Due - Readings Week 10	10/26 Second Paper Due - Readings Class #19 10
10/31 Dewey Chapters 9 and 10 Week 11	11/2 Langer Chapters 7 and 8 Class #21 11
11/7 Third Paper Readings - Faculty and Guests Invited Week 12	11/9 Third Paper Due – Readings – Faculty and Guests Invited Class #23 12
11/14 Dewey Chapter 13 Week 13	11/16 Langer Chapters 9 and 10 – Paper #4 Cover Letters due. Class #25 13
11/21 Wrap Up - Review for Final Week 14	11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday
11/28 Final Paper Due; Readings with invited guests and faculty Week 14	11/30 Final Paper Readings with invited guests and faculty Class #28 15
	12/8 - Final Examination