

Syllabus

DANC 200/300

Contemporary Modern Dance

Technique

Mixed Movement

Fall 2019
M/W/F 1-2:20
Warner Main

Instructor: Alysia Ramos
E-Mail: aramos@oberlin.edu
Office: Warner 106
Office Hours: T/H 1-2PM

"Modern is not less, modern is more. It's everything that has been done plus."

- Twyla Tharp

Course Description

Contemporary Dance Technique at Oberlin aims to increase the expressive potential of the body, develop physical capacities for a variety of choreographic contexts and intentions, enhance performance skills and develop artistry.

Mixed Movement is a transcultural, hybrid and deeply personal contemporary dance practice. It integrates diverse physical techniques into a distinct dance language encouraging dancers to investigate different aesthetic possibilities and experiment with a variety of movement vocabularies, and qualities. It is designed to develop a strong foundation in technical skills that are broadly applicable to an array of contemporary dance styles employed today. Class begins with a warm-up structured as a series of progressively more complex and physically challenging circuits, then moves to across the floor sequences, nuanced phrase work and improvisation. Throughout the class, technical practices are located historically, culturally & socially honoring oft overlooked sources of origination - modeling a process for dancemaking and training that both respects tradition and embraces innovation.

* This semester will focus on three-dimensionality, animating the backspace, falling backwards, backbending and inversions.

Learning Goals

- Become a more articulate dancer by becoming aware of individual somatic experience.
- Develop versatile technical skills and understand their application for a variety of choreographic contexts & intentions.
- Identify and shape the artistic voice by integrating technical skills with personal presence.
- Give and receive critical feedback and apply it to embodied practice.
- Broaden understanding of how physical techniques and disciplines, as well as somatic experience contribute to knowledge construction and ways of knowing, perceiving and being in the world.

Important Dates

September

Dance Dept. Orientation

September

Technique Essay Due

September 22 Sunday 4:30

Experiencing the World of Japanese Noh Theater*

Location: Wurtzel Theater

September 23 Monday 7:30-9:00 pm

Noh Movement Workshop

Location: Warner Main

September 24 Tuesday 7:30 pm

Experiencing the World of Japanese Noh Theater

October 1 Tuesday 8pm

Cudamani: Gamelan and Dance of Bali

Location: Finney Chapel

October 2 Wednesday

Guest Artist, Neva Cockrell in class

Performance: Prime 7pm

Location: Warner Main

October 6 Monday

Fall Forward Audition

Location: Warner Main

October 18 Friday

Mid-Semester Chats/NO CLASS

Location: Warner 106

November 2 Saturday

8pm One Ring Circus

Location: Warner Main

November 7-9, 8pm

Fall Forward Dance Concert

November 15-16, 8pm

Student Dance Showcase

December

Final Dance Showing

Expectations DANC 300 and 200

Contemporary III/Advanced

The advanced student should be able to:

- “Think in movement” - be able embody new movement ideas quickly whether they are demonstrated or prompted through words without having to “stop and think.”
- Accurately and consistently execute intended movements
- Efficiently coordinate and link actions
- Take risks/Know Limits – not be afraid or hesitant to try out unfamiliar movement ideas, yet also know the limitations of their own body so they can do so safely
- Be able to take and give feedback
- Find the challenge, even in basic material – never be bored. Work on the details, specific qualities and nuances without being prompted
- Confidently demonstrate before the class if asked

Contemporary II/Intermediate

The intermediate dancer should have:

- An openness, curiosity and eagerness to learn new approaches to dance.
- The strength and endurance to fully participate for an entire 1:20 minute class without breaks
- The ability to learn, memorize and perform dance sequences
- The ability to move in time with a downbeat
- An understanding of basic musculoskeletal positioning and alignment and be able to perform basic movements (knee bends, jumps) without putting unsafe strain on the body
- Spatial awareness – the ability to move in a group without banging into others

Requirements

- Be punctual, prepared and present in class.
- Be respectful and supportive of other students, the instructor, guests and TA.
- Follow studio rules: wear non-restrictive clothing that allows movement to be seen. Leave shoes outside, silence phones and do not eat or drink in the studio (except water).
- Work at your growing edge: Demonstrate focus, a consistency of work habits, a willingness to take risks and an appetite for self-investigation & growth.

Attendance Policy

3 absences are permitted with no effect on your grade. No questions asked. No excuses needed. Use them at your discretion. However, if you miss class you are responsible for the material covered that day. 4-5 absences will reduce your attendance grade by half, making the highest grade you can achieve in the class a C. If you have 5 or more absences you will not pass the class. 1 absence may be made up through attendance at a special event or workshop. See calendar for options.

Tardiness

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Please arrive on time. Dance is a rigorous and demanding discipline. *It is imperative for your own sake that you arrive on time to properly warm-up and prepare in order to avoid accident and injury.* Arriving more than 5 minutes late will count as half of an absence.

Grading

50% Attendance

10% Assignment Completion (Timely completion of the technique paper and final self-reflection)

15% Mid-Term Assessment (In the midterm that we will collaboratively assess your progress in the stated learning goals, course expectations and course requirements)

25% Final Assessment (In the final assessment I will assess your semester-long improvement against the learning goals, course expectations and requirements)

Grading Scale:	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59-Below	F

Accessibility Statement

The college makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify [Disability Resources at the Center for Academic Success](#) in Peters Hall rooms 116/118 and their instructor of any disability related needs, including any academic adjustments or accommodations requested.