

Syllabus

DANC 222

Choreography

Fall 2020
M/W/F 10:10-11:50 EST
Warner Main
[Zoom](#)

Instructor: Alysia Ramos
E-Mail: aramos@oberlin.edu
Office: [Zoom](#)
Office Hours: T/H 2:45-4pm



“Dance, dance, otherwise we are lost.”

– Pina Bausch

Course Description

This course is a deep dive into the mysterious, soul bearing, physically challenging, highly subjective, constantly evolving sea of making ephemeral art with movement. It is a class that will not endeavor to teach you how to do things, but rather provide a space and community to support you as you discover who you are and what you want to say with dance. Classes will provide tools, skills, inspiration and models for the development of a personal creative practice. Assignments will ask that you apply those tools in the creation of original choreographic works. The goal is to identify and shape your artistic voices and give you opportunities to share those voices with the community.

Learning Goals

- Expand one’s self-awareness and presence individually and within a group setting.
- Gain confidence with improvisation
- Transform dance composition methods, tactics and vocabulary into personal meaning making
- Learn to identify and shape one’s artistic voice in the creation of original work
- Develop a personal creative process
- Be able to structure and run rehearsals with confidence, efficiency and clarity
- Understand the development of dance from its inception through performance
- Be able to give and receive thoughtful, critical feedback.

Coursework

- Weekly Video Viewings & Discussion (Mondays)
- Weekly Choreography Practice (Wednesdays)
- Weekly Small Thing Showings (9 Fridays)
- Journal Entries/Inspiration Cultivation (Daily)
- Critical Feedback (Fridays)
- Final Project (Dec 4 & 7)

Instructional Modes

- Hybrid – Monday classes meet on Zoom, Wednesday’s are designated work at your site, Friday’s are showings and feedback in person
- Remote – Monday classes meet on Zoom, Wednesday’s are designated work at your site, Friday’s are showings and feedback on Zoom
 - Etiquette for Remote Participation: Keep mic muted when not speaking; have camera on unless bandwidth issues develop, in which case note the reason in the chat; do not have anything else open; have your phone on Do Not Disturb.

Class Format

- Mondays
 - Videos
 - Discussions
 - Assignment creation
- Wednesdays
 - Creation
 - Rehearsal
- Fridays
 - Showings
 - Feedback

Requirements

- Attend classes in person or on Zoom
- Participate in discussion
- Complete all Small Studies
- Follow Community Agreements
- Adhere to Safety Guidelines and Studio Rules
- Demonstrate focus, a consistency of work habits, a willingness to take risks and an appetite for self-investigation & growth.
- Work at your Growing Edge
 - This will be different for each person
 - Observe your somatic experience
 - Identify your goals and obstacles
 - Recognize the difference between unsafe and uncomfortable

Grading

- Attendance – 25%
- Small Studies – 27% (3% Each)
- Journal - 25%
- Final Project – 25%

Special Note about Fall 2020

*Adapted from Prof. Wendy Beth Hyman in English

We are in the midst of a pandemic, a national uprising, a fraught election, environmental crises, and more. This extent to which these circumstances touches each of us varies, however we are all living through fear, uncertainty, and trauma. In light of this, I will be generous about deadlines, accommodations, and anything else you need; but you need to communicate with me. My goal is simply for us to just keep learning and creating together, whatever version of our world we find ourselves in. Please be patient with each other and with me. I promise I am doing my very best to create a meaningful education experience for you.

Tips for Success

- Make sure you have some idle time to daydream every week (daily if possible)
- Do weird things that break up your routine/context
- Do the work – really do the studio time, write in your journal, show up for yourself, don't half ass it
- Don't create and criticize at the same time, they are two separate things and they don't work together
- Get feedback from people who really understand you & your work and get feedback from people who don't understand you and your work. The truth will always be somewhere in between those people.

Journal

- Purchase a journal specifically for this class. In it you will record: Rehearsal dates/times; notes from class, homework assignments, ideas for pieces, choreography notes, and feedback you have received. Your journal will be checked randomly.

Guiding Principles for Fall 2020 – From *Emergent Strategy* by adrienne maree brown

- Small is good, small is all
- Change is constant
- There is always enough time for the right work
- There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it.
- Never a failure, always a lesson
- Trust the people
- Less prep, more presence
- What you pay attention to grows

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.