

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

SCHOOL OF DANCE

DANC 1420- Modern Dance Workshop I - 2 credits

Instructors: Daniel Clifton (1st half) Stephanie Garcia (2nd half)

M W | 8:05-9:25 pm | MCD 260

Office Hours: by appointment | Email: daniel.clifton@utah.edu | Office: MCD 207

“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

— Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

“Learn to ~~write~~ choreograph by doing it. ~~Read~~ Watch widely and wisely. Increase your ~~word~~ ~~power~~ dance vocabulary. Find your own individual voice though practicing constantly. Go through the world with your eyes and ears open and learn to express that experience in ~~words~~ dance.”

— P.D. James, Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights

Course Description:

This course provides structured studies in the basic elements of dance composition. Fundamental concepts of craft and form in choreography are explored.

Course Objectives: The learning is in the doing and the doing is making.

This course asks, “What is choreography and how does one create it?” Our time together will be spent making choreographic studies (sometimes in a few minutes, other times over a few days), pondering choreographic philosophies, and discussing our experiences in making and observing dances.

At the end of this course students should be able to...

- Recognize and use fundamental choreographic tools/devices and discuss how they contribute to meaning making.
- Approach choreographing with curiosity and a sense of play.
- Be more comfortable presenting their creative ideas and material to others.
- Articulate their personal artistic tendencies and patterns when creating movement material and feel capable of pushing themselves beyond these tendencies.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

Students will be given prompts for creating choreographic studies, which will be shown to classmates through a positive and supportive sharing process. We will practice holding a respectful space that is encouraging for all. Readings, viewings, and non-dance activities (art projects of varying disciplines, reflection papers, etc.) will occasionally be assigned.

Expectations and rubrics will be discussed as studies/activities are assigned.

Course Requirements:

Clothing that allows for expressive movement,

A notebook/journal

A device that plays music (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.)

Headphones (suggested)

Grading criteria for this course is as follows:

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is essential in our highly physical, studio-based class. Class will begin promptly at the start time. Frequent tardies and early departures will also affect the student's grade. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor by the end of class if the student arrives after roll has been taken. Students should inform the instructor with at least one week's advance notice if the student is participating in a school-related/excusable absence.

School of Dance Attendance Policy

Students are allowed **2 weeks (4 classes) absences without penalty. Two tardies equal an absence and two observation days equal one absence.**

"The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first-class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor."

Observation days are intended for students to sit and observe class members in case of sickness or injuries. The student will take notes on what the student sees and how it offers insight into the student's own dancing and dance-making. These notes will be handed into the instructor at the end of class. If the student is contagiously sick, please stay home! Arrangements will be made for work missed by students with extenuating circumstances (major injuries, death of an immediate family member, etc.) Please contact the instructor for more information, as needed.

Grading Scale:

100 points are possible. **GRADE Points:**

A	94-100
A-	90 - 93
B+	87 - 89
B	84 - 86
B-	80 - 83
C+	77 - 79
C	74 - 76
C-	70 - 73
D+	67 - 69
D	64 - 66
D-	60 - 63
E	0 – 59

Communication & Office Hours:

Preferred contact methods: The easiest way to contact your instructors directly is to use *Inbox*, located in the far-left Canvas menu. You can also contact your instructors over the emails listed above for other School of Dance matters unrelated to this course, but you must use your UMail account to do so. Office Hours available by appointment.

Non-Contract Statement

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for the course. Please note that the instructor may modify it at any time with reasonable notice to students. The instructor may also modify the Schedule at any time to accommodate the needs of the class. Should the student have any questions or concerns about the syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification.

Faculty and Student Responsibilities

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code (Policy 6-400), spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations (Policy 6-316), it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

"Faculty...must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning." (6-316)

Defining Plagiarism: "Plagiarism means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, a sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression." (Policy 6-400, Student Code)

Contact Disclaimer

As part of the course's kinesthetic experience, tactile interaction may sometimes take place between the instructor and the student, as well as contact between students during specific prompts. This use of appropriate touch and contact will occur during exploration or creation of compositional ideas. If you are uncomfortable in using touch to connect or interact with classmates, please inform your instructor and they will make accommodations.

Land Acknowledgement

It is important to acknowledge that this course takes place on the ancestral land of Native People. More information can be found at <https://www.utah.edu/indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

Resources

The University of Utah offers a plethora of academic and personal health resources designed to help any student who is in conflict, crisis, or struggle. Below you will find just a few resources, but you can access a full catalog of available resources at <http://www.utah.edu/students/services.php>

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access \(CDA\)](#). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access
801-581-5020
disability.utah.edu
65 Student Services Building
201 S 1460 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Safety at the U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

801-581-8365

oeo.utah.edu

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Office of the Dean of Students

801-581-7066

deanofstudents.utah.edu

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

Center for Campus Wellness
801-581-7776
wellness.utah.edu
350 Student Services Building
201 S. 1460 E.
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Academic Misconduct

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.