



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - DANCE  
DANCE 481: CROSS CULTURAL CURRENTS  
THEORIZING DANCING BODIES  
Session: Fall 2016

**Professor:** Melanie Kloetzel  
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**Office Hours:** T 10-12, or by appointment  
**Class Location and Time:** W 4-6:50 pm in KNA 160

**Learning Resources, Required Texts:**

Course pack available at U of C Bookstore in MacEwan Hall.

**Course Description:** Critical dance theory and global dance forms.

**Course Overview:**

In this course, we will explore some of the fundamental theoretical concerns that dancers and choreographers face when dancing/making dances. We will examine the political, historical, and cultural events that provide context for dance and we will observe how theory, context and practice interrelate in the creation of dances. In particular, we will focus on dance forms that have emerged in the recent past, noting the major catalysts for a form's fruition and how a form responds to as well as shapes contextual and cultural changes. As we dissect these forms as cultural and political practices informed by world events, we will also note how theoretical notions of culture, race, gender, identity, and the body influence and/or are influenced by the form. By progressing through this course, I hope that you will discover your own ideas of what makes dance an emerging and relevant cultural form.

Dance 481 acts as the main theory and research methods seminar for dance majors at the University of Calgary.

**Prerequisites:** [Dance 243](#) or [345](#).

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Throughout this course, we aim to understand how to theorise the dancing body by asking the following questions: What frames our experience of new dance forms? How does dance as a cultural practice shape and/or reflect the cultures from which the form originated? What political and historical events have shaped specific dance forms? Do dance forms comment on, undermine, or reinforce cultural stereotypes around identity? How does performance of these forms embody politics? What political representations manifest in the forms? What theoretical lenses can help us explore and analyze these emerging forms? By exploring these diverse practices in the context of cultural, political, and historical events, we aim to facilitate a better understanding not only of our own culture, but also of the importance of dance in a global setting.

By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1) Read, identify arguments, and engage in discussions of theory-based dance scholarship at an advanced elementary level

- 2) Delineate a collection of major themes that have influenced global dance forms in the past century
- 3) Identify how major world events, political theory, and dance creation can interrelate
- 4) Discuss the catalysts for emerging global dance forms
- 5) Identify how theories of the body emerge from and influence diverse dance forms
- 6) Discuss how certain Western philosophical ideals impact dance in North America
- 7) Create practical task-based movement activities at an advanced elementary level that engage with theoretical models introduced in dance scholarship
- 8) Engage in in-depth scholarly research at an elementary level
- 9) Delineate the necessary steps of a research process including the choice of topic, creation of operational question, argument-based thesis statement, written outline, and exact citations
- 10) Write well-informed introductory level research papers on a chosen topic that addresses dance theory and global dance forms

### **Course Schedule and Activities:**

This course will follow an experiential lecture format, integrating lecture, discussion, and movement in class. Students should come to class prepared both to take notes during discussion and to move as needed. In addition, the course will include readings, the creation of movement tasks, as well as in-depth written assignments to complete outside of class times. We will explore dance as it is presented in live performances and on video. The course will end with a public conference at which all students must present their final research projects and be prepared to hand in their final, well-researched, 10-page papers.

### **Assessment components and expectations:**

In terms of grading, students will be assessed on the following:

- 1) Completion of in-class and out-of-class video viewings and movement labs (no previous movement experience is required).
- 2) Completion of weekly readings of the articles required. After completing the readings, each student will need to post a 1-2 sentence summary of the thesis of **each** article on D2L **prior** to class discussion of that article. This, along with your participation in class discussions, will determine your participation mark for the class. (20%)
- 3) Each student must write one 2-page paper exploring his/her discussion article in relation to the main themes of this class. In these papers, the student will need to delineate the author's thesis/argument, summarize the points that the author makes to support his/her thesis, state why s/he makes this argument, and, most importantly, assess the strengths and weaknesses of her/his arguments. These papers are due on the day the student helps lead discussion about that article. Along with the paper, students must hand in a list of questions (3-4 total) they will ask when leading discussion. (10%)
- 4) Each student must create one movement assignment for full class participation based on one of the articles chosen at the beginning of term. On the day that s/he leads this participation, the student must hand in a one-page statement explaining how the movement assignment relates to the article assigned and what outcomes s/he expected from the class enactment of the movement assignment. Along with the one-page statement, students must hand in a one-page list of questions (3-4 total) that will help lead discussion in relation to the movement assignment. These questions should address the movement assignment's relationship to the theoretical principles of the article, as well as the personal experience of the participants. (10%)
- 5) Two in-class exams. (30%)
- 6) Final projects, including an in-class presentation as well as a 10-page paper (or 6-page paper if you choose the choreography option) exploring issues discussed in this class as demonstrated by the choreographer/dance form of your choice. These projects must be approved by me by Wednesday of Week 7. An introductory paragraph and list of sources (5% of grade) will be handed in three-

weeks prior to the due date for the paper, i.e. by Wednesday of Week 8, after which all students will work closely with a peer to edit their papers at various stages. Presentations of the research will occur in Week 12 in a conference-style setting (open to the public) and papers must be handed in just after the presentation (final papers 20%; presentation 5% OR choreography and presentation 10%; final papers 15%).

Expectations for Writing:

Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.

Expectations for Attendance and Participation:

Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.3 Attendance for details.

Guidelines for Formatting Assignments

Assignments should be formatted with 1-inch margins, 12-point font, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font.

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments

Any assignments that are emailed instead of provided in hard copy on the due date will not be handed back with comments; you must see me to obtain your letter grade.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will have 10% points deducted per late day.

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 97.6-100	A 92.6-97.5	A- 90-92.5
B+ 87.6-89.9	B 82.6-87.5	B- 80-82.5
C+ 77.6- 79.9	C 72.6-77.5	C- 70-72.5
D+ 67.6-69.9	D 62.6-67.5	D- 60-62.5

Pass - 60% and above  
Fail – 59.9% and below

For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.2 of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2016-2017:

Grade	GPA	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
D+	1.30	

D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.
Academic accommodation		Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/access/">ucalgary.ca/access/</a> . Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf">ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf</a> .
Academic integrity, plagiarism		The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar ( <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html</a> ) and are reminded that plagiarism-- Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people’s words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
Student misconduct		<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a>
FOIP		<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy">ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy</a>
Emergency evacuation		Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. <b>THE PRIMARY ASSEMBLY POINT FOR CRAIGIE HALL IS THE PROFESSIONAL FACULTIES FOOD COURT.</b> For more information, see the University of Calgary’s Emergency Management website: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a>
Internet and electronic communication device		<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/">elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app">ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app</a> The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor’s policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor.
Safewalk		220-5333 anytime. <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk">ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk</a>
Students’ union and ombudsperson contacts		Student Union: <a href="http://su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> Faculty of Arts reps: <a href="mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca">arts1@su.ucalgary.ca</a> ; <a href="mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca">arts2@su.ucalgary.ca</a> ; <a href="mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca">arts3@su.ucalgary.ca</a> ; <a href="mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca">arts4@su.ucalgary.ca</a> Graduate Student’s Association: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html</a> Student Ombudsman: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact">ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact</a>
Midterm and final examination scheduling		Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (12-22 December for Fall 2016 term; 15-26 April for Winter 2017 term); students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final">ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final</a>
Deferrals of exams/term work		It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examinations for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with your advisor if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines. <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final">ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html</a>

	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html</a>
SCPA Claim Your Seat Program: Student Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Claim Your Seat (CYS) program, funded by the Students' Union Quality Money, allows all University of Calgary students to attend on-campus School of Creative and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) events free of charge.</li> <li>2. Depending on the performance, there is a limited number of seats available for CYS. There is not a guarantee that tickets will be available for all CYS patrons for every performance, based on audience size, demand, etc.</li> <li>3. CYS tickets are a privilege. If a student receives a ticket to attend a performance, it is expected that they will respect the value of the admission and attend the performance.</li> <li>4. Process for students: On the date of the performance, from 45 minutes prior to 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they arrive to the CYS table next to the Box Office and show their Unocard. If students arrive after 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they can go to the Box Office and purchase a ticket at the student rate. Students should not go to the Box Office unless they are purchasing a ticket.</li> <li>5. If students have a course requirement to attend a performance for a specific date, access to the tickets will be communicated by the instructor to University Theatre Services prior to the event. The best guarantee for a free ticket is to arrive early, up to 45 minutes prior to the performance start time.</li> <li>6. Respect for the Front of House and theatre staff, performers and fellow patrons is an absolute requirement. Failure to comply with this will lead to being asked to leave the venue and could result in the revoking of CYS privileges.</li> </ol>
Academic standing	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html</a>
Campus security	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.
Copyright	It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students. Further copyright information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page ( <a href="http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright">library.ucalgary.ca/copyright</a> ).
Faculty of Arts program advising and student information resources	<p>For academic advising, visit the Arts Students' Centre (ASC) for answers about course registration, graduation checks, and the 'big picture' on programs and majors. Drop in at SS102, email at <a href="mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca">ascarts@ucalgary.ca</a> or call at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <a href="http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate">arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</a> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p> <p>For academic success support, such as writing support, peer support, success seminars, and learning support, visit the Student Success Centre on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), email them at <a href="mailto:success@ucalgary.ca">success@ucalgary.ca</a> or visit their website at <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc/">ucalgary.ca/ssc/</a> for more information or to book an appointment.</p> <p>For enrolment assistance, including registration (add/drop/swap) changes, paying fees, and navigating your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625], by email at <a href="mailto:futurestudents@ucalgary.ca">futurestudents@ucalgary.ca</a> or visit them at the MacKimmie Block 117.</p>
Course outlines for transfer credit	It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.
Letter of permission	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the U of C, you must have a letter of permission. You can submit your request through your Student Centre at MyUofC. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.
Undergraduate associations	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 <a href="mailto:uofcdus@gmail.com">uofcdus@gmail.com</a> MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 <a href="mailto:undmusic@ucalgary.ca">undmusic@ucalgary.ca</a>