DAA 3612C – Dance Improvisation/Composition I
Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Arts II Rm. T 212 Mon 8:00-9:00 Tues/Thurs 9:00-11:30 (or by appt)

Objectives
The primary focus of this course is the study and application of the basic principles of DANCE COMPOSITION as it relates to Concert Dance. The course will include daily movement/improvisation sessions, several choreographic study assignments (one of which will double as a midterm and one of which will double as a final choreographed project), an extensive journal that is based on these sessions and assignments, classroom discussions and final Project.

Textbooks
1. The Intimate Act of Choreography, by Blom & Chaplin

Grading
1. Attendance - because of the nature of this course, attendance and participating is mandatory. Two absences are allowed, thereafter every absence lowers grade by 25 points. Three times late or observing class is the same as an absence. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED CLASSES.
3. Monthly Choreographic Studies. Group Choreography, Solo/Self Study, Choreography on classmates, These will be assigned and graded Acceptable or Unacceptable (similar to pass/fail)

Evaluation
1. Attendance/Participation – 15%
2. Weekly Choreographic studies – 20%
3. Midterm Choreographic Study – 20%
4. Final choreographic Project – 25%
5. Journal—20%

The grading scale will be:

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Please come to class a few minutes early to warm up. **No one over 10 minutes late may participate in class.** If over 10 minutes late is considered a tardy, **3 times late is an absent.** Please observe class and a written critique of the class must be turned in at the end of that class to receive credit for attendance.

**Attire/Dress Code**
Because of the nature of the course you are required to wear nonrestricting clothing, appropriate dancewear is desired. Sometimes movement studies will call for shoes and sometimes they won’t. Get in the habit of bringing along dance shoes i.e. ballet or jazz shoes just in case. Jeans are not allowed. Hats/caps, jewelry, perfume, and body lotion or oils, can hinder partner work and/or aggravate allergies. Please wear deodorant and use proper hygiene!

**Journal**
**Due December 2**

A computerized/typewritten journal of the Movement/Improvisation sessions and Choreographic Studies must be kept. HANDWRITTEN WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Entries must be made at a rate of at least one page per week for a total of at least 13 pages when due. You are given much latitude as to the content of your journal. It should, however, contain dated entries and include your personal feelings and thoughtful comments as to the movement/improvisation experiences and choreographic assignments. Your writings must be thought out and articulate.

You may feel compelled to write a lot about one assignment/experience and not as much about another. This is fine. You may find, too, that you are particularly fond of one of your classmates’ work and not too fond of another’s. This topic is fine too—as long as you explain. You may also find that you have determined the time in which you are most creative. Writings on this topic are also appropriate. You will more than likely notice likes, dislikes, and frustrations associated with new methods. These writings are also fine. Because of your busy schedules, sometimes you will find that you are not able to write during a particular week. This is fine as long as you make up for it the following week. Write about topics that you want to write about. All papers will be double-spaced and stapled. Use a size 12pt. font. Journals are due at or before class time on April 18th. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

Other thoughts for the journal but not limited to.

- Movements/themes
- Use of Space, Levels, Direction,
- Choreographer’s intentions
- Success or failure of the choreographer’s intentions
- Political/Commercial/Artistic nature
- Inspired thoughts/memories

Observe appropriate rules of punctuation, grammar, spelling, and proper use of works cited as in MLA Handbook.

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**Important Dates for MW 9:00AM-10:20AM**

- September 7 (Mon) Labor Day (no class)
- October 14 (Wed) Mid term
- November 11 (Wed) Veterans Day (no class)
- November 27 – Thanksgiving (no class)
- December 2 (Wed) – Journal/ Final Choreographic Project
- December 7 (Mon) – Final Choreographic Project
- December 9 (Wed) - Final Choreographic Project