

DANC-2600: DANCE IMPROVISATION AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: DANC-2600 : Dance Improvisation and Choreography

Board of Trustees:

October 2024

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

DANC - Dance

Course Number:

2600

Title:

Dance Improvisation and Choreography

Catalog Description:

Introduce and practice basic tools for dance improvisation and choreography. Engage in creative movement activities and develop short compositions to expand movement vocabulary and awareness, practice personal choice-making, and enhance creative and artistic skill. Explore elements of the creative process including sources of inspiration, research and development, collaboration, performance, evaluation, and feedback.

Credit Hour(s):

2

Lecture Hour(s):

1

Lab Hour(s):

2

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

DANC-1501 Dance Fundamentals, or THEA-1500 Acting I, or THEA-1520 Improvisation and Performance I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Apply improvisation and basic dance composition tools to develop personal movement vocabulary building into solo and group studies.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss basic principles of dance improvisation and composition/choreography.
2. Apply basic dance elements of body, space, time, and effort to improvisation and composition/choreography.
3. Demonstrate the use of dance improvisation as a creative research tool to expand and/or generate new movement vocabulary.
4. Recognize and utilize various inspirational sources for improvisation and choreography.
5. Create and perform short improvisational and compositional studies (solo, duet, and/or group).
6. Discuss and evaluate self and peer's creative work.
7. Analyze and discuss choreography by selected choreographers.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Class attendance and active participation
2. Solo studies
3. Partner (duet) and/or group studies
4. Journaling
5. Written and verbal research and development for choreographic ideas
6. Performance of creative work
7. Peer evaluation
8. Self-evaluation/reflection
9. Analysis/critique of select choreography

Course Content Outline:

1. Dance improvisation
 - a. Basic elements of dance: body, space, time, effort/energy
 - b. Improvisation as a creative process tool for research and development of movement ideas
 - c. Improvisation as a creative process tool to expand range of movement possibilities, qualities, and dynamics
 - d. Improvisational studies - individual, partner, and group activities
2. Dance composition/choreography
 - a. Basic compositional tools and structures
 - b. Solo, partner, and group studies
 - c. Creative process
 - i. Inspirational sources
 - ii. Idea development and intention
 - iii. Generating/creating movement
 - iv. Choice-making and refining
 1. Intention and structure
 2. Phrasing, transitions, dynamics
 3. Feedback
 - v. Development of “personal voice” as a dance creator
 - vi. Tools for planning and documenting choreography
 3. Performance and critique
 - a. Performance of improvisational and compositional movement studies
 - b. Giving and receiving feedback on creative work
 - c. Reflection and critical analysis of self and peer creative work
 - d. Critical analysis of other artists' creative work/choreography

Resources

Blom, Lynne A., Chaplin, L. T. *The Intimate Act of Choreography*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995.

Foster, Susan Leigh. *Dances that Describe Themselves: The Improvised Choreography of Richard Bull*. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2002.

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. Grove Press. Minton, Sandra Cerny, 1987.

Nagrin, Daniel. *Dance and the Specific Image: Improvisation*. Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1994.

Nagrin, Daniel. *Choreography and the Specific Image: Nineteen Essays and a Workbook*. Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2001.

Penrod, James and Janice G Plastino. *The Dancer Prepares: Modern Dance for Beginners*. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Tufnell, Miranda. *Body, Space, Image: Notes Toward Improvisation and Performance*. London : Virago, 2000.

Lerman, Liz and John Borstel. (2022) *Critique Is Creative: The Critical Response Process in Theory and Action*, Wesleyan University Press.

Lerman, Liz and John Borstel. (2003) *Liz Lerman's critical response process: A method for getting useful feedback on anything you make, from dance to dessert*, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange.

Lerman, Liz. (2014) *Hiking the Horizontal: Field Notes from a Choreographer*, Wesleyan University Press.

Orr, Allison. (2023) *Dance Works: Stories of Creative Collaboration*, Wesleyan University Press.

Sandra Cerny Minton. (2017) *Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation*, Human Kinetics.

Tsakalidis, Konstantin. (2022) *Choreography - craft and vision: Developing and Structuring Dance for Solo, Duet and Groups*, Independently published.

Flatt, Kate. (2019) *Choreography: Creating and Developing Dance for Performance*, The Crowood Press.

Sabo, Linda. (2020) *Musical Theatre Choreography: Reflections of My Artistic Process for Staging Musicals*, Farnham Academy Press.

Abate, Cassie. (2022) *The Art and Practice of Musical Theatre Choreography*, Methuen Drama.

Albright, Ann Cooper and David Gere. (2003) *Taken by Surprise: A Dance Improvisation Reader*, Wesleyan University Press.

Reeve, Justine. (2013) *Dance Improvisations: Warm-Ups, Games and Choreographic Tasks*, Human Kinetics.

Reeve, Justine. (2023) *More Dance Improvisations*, Human Kinetics.

Midgelow, Vida L. (2019) *The Oxford Handbook of Improvisation in Dance*, Oxford University Press.

Herrmann, B., Fischbeck, M, and Sinaiko E. (2018) *Group Motion in Practice: Collective Creation through Dance Movement Improvisation*, McFarland & Company.

Resources Other

Dance Exchange Toolbox with Liz Lerman: <http://www.d-lab.org/toolbox> (<http://www.d-lab.org/toolbox/>)
Dance Exchange: <https://www.danceexchange.org/>

Dance Masterclass website: <https://www.dance-masterclass.com/>

Gaga Movement Language website: <https://www.gagapeople.com/en/>

Liz Lerman Critical Response Process: <https://lizlerman.com/critical-response-process/> and https://www.colorado.edu/center-teaching-learning/sites/default/files/attached-files/liz_lerman_critical_response_1_page.pdf

Liz Lerman website: <https://lizlerman.com/>

Liz Lerman - Atlas of Creative Tools: <https://lizlerman.com/atlas-of-creative-tools/>

Pina Bausch website: <https://www.pinabausch.org/>

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