



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**  
**DNCE 233 Creative Process I: Improvisation**  
**Winter 2024**

Instructor Email Office	<b>Wojciech Mochniej</b> <b>w.<a href="mailto:w.mochniej@ucalgary.ca">mochniej@ucalgary.ca</a>,</b> <b>By appointment</b>
Day(s), time(s):	<b>Tu/Th 12-1:50</b>
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Out of class activities 1. Preparation of projects 2. Group meetings as required 3. Research for scores 4. Other reading and viewing as assigned (available online or in Library)
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see <a href="http://d2L.ucalgary.ca">d2L.ucalgary.ca</a> ).  In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;</li> <li>• A current and updated web browser;</li> <li>• Webcam (built-in or external);</li> <li>• Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone;</li> <li>• Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;</li> <li>• Broadband internet connection.</li> </ul> Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Dance 209 and 247 or equivalent; or consent of the Division Lead, Dance</b>
Course description	<b>A practical study of movement improvisation as a critical component of creative process with emphasis on improvisation as a performance practice and as a tool for creation.</b>
Course learning outcomes	<b>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</b>  <b>1.Explore their organic physical responses; by this I mean that we will learn to understand the importance of an uncensored physical response to an image, idea, or given task.</b>  <b>2.Identify and move away from, or more deeply into, known patterns and habits. We want to sense the logic of the body physically and personally, as well sense as our own unique strengths and weaknesses, leaving behind ideas of what movement "should" be like and "should" look like.</b>

3. Sense movement development; exploring the skill of following the direction of a movement--sensing where it needs or wants to go.
4. Respond to multiple types of stimuli which might include an image, another person, gesture, text, music or sound, or daily inspirations from everyday life.
5. Involve themselves deeply in the exploration of stimuli and respond with movement.
6. Make movement invention and authenticity a high priority. This is an important skill for creating movement appropriate to the task/situation/score.
7. Take risks to explore movement authenticity fully. They will work on developing confidence in movement; listening and following where movement needs to go without 'worrying 'about what it looks like.
8. Physically 'listen 'and respond to others in the context of improvised dance.
9. Work with and develop their own improvisational scores for solo, duet, and group work.
10. Develop the power to work through a challenging task rather than backing away, which includes being able to sustain focus, energy, and commitment within an improvised dance.
11. Explore all these elements and carry that process into work with partners and groups; communicate with them through movement, without any need for verbal exchange.
12. Demonstrate an elevated understanding of performance and develop the ability to maintain the improvisational process while performing for an audience. This will require them to keep their concentration and focus on the task or the score.

Course schedule

Information and details will be listed on D2L.

Components (Assignment, Paper, Project, Quiz, or Test)	Description	Due Date	Worth (%)
<b>Assignment 1: Reading</b>	<b>Taken by Surprise, pages 21-38</b>	<b>January 18</b>	2%
<b>Assignment 2: Reading</b>	<b>Composing While Dancing, pages 76-90</b>	<b>January 25</b>	2%
<b>Assignment 3: Reading</b>	<b>Composing While Dancing page 161-186</b>	<b>February 1</b>	2%
<b>Assignment 4: Reading</b>	<b>Taken by Surprise pages 53-74</b>	<b>February 29</b>	2%

<b>Assignment 5: Reading</b>	<p><b>Composing While Dancing</b> Choose one of 3 chapters ( "The Eyes", "The Possibilities of Music", or "Partnering Science" )</p> <p>* Each reading assignment requires a response in D2L of not less than 150 words. Your responses should reflect on the relationship between the reading and classwork.</p>	<b>March 7</b>	2%
<b>Participation</b>	<p><b>Full physical engagement:</b> A high level of physical and intellectual engagement with the tasks and material presented is required. This includes full physical engagement with the movement, reflection on information given in each lesson, participation in class discussions, preparedness for discussions of readings, willingness to take risks, and positive contributions to the learning environment.</p>	<b>ongoing</b>	35%
<b>Movement development</b>	<b>Ability to use improvisational methods and structures</b>	<b>ongoing</b>	30%
<b>2 Improvised Scores</b>	<p><b>Individual and small group</b> Individual and small group. Assessment based on your proficiency in meeting course objectives in your performance of the scores</p>	<b>Feb 8 - Individual March 7 - Group</b>	10%
<b>Final Assignment Presentation</b>	<b>Presentation demonstrating your understanding of the course material.</b>	<b>April 2 and 4</b>	15%

Assessment expectations	<p>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</p> <p><b>1. For Studio Assignments</b> Participation is equal to an assignment in this class.</p> <p><b>2. For Written Assignments.</b> Written Assignments should be submitted - on D2L</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> <b>Criteria That Must Be Met to Pass.</b> To reach the passing grade, the student must participate in all class activities with respect for their peers, instructor, and own practice. This involves keeping an open mind and demonstrating satisfactory progress in their understanding and application of the course's material over the length of the term.</p> <p><u>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A significant part of your grade is based on participation. Participation means not only showing up for class, but also attending to the material at hand with effort and engagement.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding participation, classes are considered equivalent to assignments. Thus, more than 3 absences per term will have an adverse effect on your final grade.</li> <li>• If you miss more than one week of classes(2), your final grade will begin to drop by as much as 10% per missed class.</li> <li>• If you miss more than two weeks of classes(4), you have the potential to fail the course.</li> <li>• If you show up late for or leave early from class, this will be counted as half an absence.</li> <li>• If for some reason you are feeling unwell during class time me, a substitute form of participation may be arranged; however, you may not obtain this privilege more than once and you will receive half an absence.</li> <li>• For studio courses, if you opt out of full participation and choose to sit for a portion of the class, this will be counted as non-participation and will be marked as half an absence.</li> <li>• Students are responsible for all material missed during an absence.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Expectations for Attendance and Participation:</u></b> Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.3 Attendance for details.</p> <p><b>Expectations for Writing:</b> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in evaluating student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p>
Grading scale	<p><b>Undergraduate:</b> <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.</li> <li>• The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.</li> <li>• (DANCE) The following numerical rubric will be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A+ 97.6-100</li> <li>• A 92.6-97.5</li> <li>• A- 90-92.5</li> <li>• B+ 87.6-89.9</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B 82.6-87.5</li> <li>• B- 80-82.5</li> <li>• C+ 77.6-79.9</li> <li>• C 72.6-77.5</li> <li>• C- 70-72.5</li> <li>• D+ 67.6-69.9</li> <li>• D 62.6-67.5</li> <li>• F 0-62.5</li> </ul> <p><b>Graduate:</b> <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.</li> </ul>
Guidelines for Zoom Sessions	<p>Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.</p> <p>To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.</p> <p>The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g <a href="#">Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy</a>). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <a href="https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/">https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/</a>.</p> <p>If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p>
Academic Accommodation	<p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations</a>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-</a></p>

	<p><a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf">services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>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://www.ucalgary.ca/access/">www.ucalgary.ca/access/</a>.</p>
Academic integrity, plagiarism	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</a>.</p>
Internet and electronic communication device	<p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf</a>.</p>
Intellectual Property	<p>Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.</p>
Copyright	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf</a>) and requirements of the copyright act (<a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html</a>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a>.</p>
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	<p>Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.</p>
Student Support	<p>Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines">https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</a></p>
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	<p>Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at <a href="mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca">ascarts@ucalgary.ca</a>.</p> <p>You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <a href="http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate">http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</a> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p>
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	<p>For graduate studies email: <a href="mailto:graduate@ucalgary.ca">graduate@ucalgary.ca</a> or call 403 220 4938.</p> <p>Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: <a href="https://grad.ucalgary.ca/">https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</a></p>