



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
COURSE OUTLINE
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS – DANCE
DANCE 331: Dance Improvisation
Session: Fall 2014

Instructor: Wojciech Mochniej
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-1:30 or by appointment
Class Location and Time: Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:50
Kinesiology 163 (Dance Studio)

Text: Posted on D2L

Prerequisite: DNCE 209, DCED 247 or DNCE 247 or equivalent or consent of the Department of Dance

Course Description: Experiences in individual and group improvisations. Development of skills in designing and participating in improvisational structures.

Supplementary Fees: none

Course Objectives:

In this course we will explore our *organic physical response*; by this I mean that we will learn to understand the importance of an uncensored physical response to an image, idea, or given task. We will identify and move away from, or more deeply into, our known patterns and habits. We want to sense physically and personally, the logic of the body, as well as our own unique strengths and weaknesses, and leave behind ideas of what movement "should" be like and "should" look like. We will work on *sensing movement development*; exploring the skill of following the direction of a movement--sensing where it needs or wants to go. We will respond to multiple types of stimuli which might include; an image, another person, gesture, text, music or sound, or daily inspirations from everyday life. We will involve ourselves deeply in the exploration, and respond with movement.

Movement invention will be a high priority for us. This is an important skill for creating movement appropriate to the task/situation/score. To explore this fully we develop the *ability to take risks*. We will work on developing our confidence in movement; to listen and follow where we need to go (move) without 'worrying' about what it looks like, and to develop the power to work through a challenging task rather than backing away. We will learn to explore all these elements and to carry that process into *work with partners and groups*; to communicate with them through movement, without any need for verbal exchange. We will *elevate our understanding of performance*, and develop the *ability to maintain the improvisational process while performing* for an audience. This will require us to keep our *concentration and focus* on the task or the score.

Course Activities:

Exploration and experimentation are the primary modes of learning in this course, and class exercises will progress from the simple to the more complex during the term. Each meeting is designed to enhance the student's creative and physical awareness. Classes will consist of :

- Warm-up designed to prepare the body for movement and to **connect to the senses**; introducing effective breathing/relaxation techniques, increasing **body-awareness**, developing our ability to **respond organically**, re-patterning movement habits, and preparing the student to **move more fully**.
- Exercises and improvisational structures designed to help us understand **movement development and movement invention**; increasing our ability to explore movement through a comprehensive understanding of space, time (rhythm) and qualities of movement, as well as **relationship of self to other**.
- Exploration of concepts from contact improvisation such as; an awareness of points of contact, rolling, giving and taking weight, falling, spiraling and **'riding the dance'**.
- Improvisational dances in which students will explore and expand their **range of movement choices**, spatial awareness, **awareness of the whole**, the **concentration** required in improvised performance.
- Select video viewing to increase our awareness of the diversity and richness of the field

Students will work solo, in duets, in trios, and as part of the larger group.

Group discussion will often follow improvisational exercises.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be evaluated on the degree to which they meet course objectives and their completion of the course requirements:

1. Quality of Participation in all class activities (40%)

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, willingness to take risks, and positive contributions to the learning environment.

2. Movement development, movement invention, development of awareness and skill (40%)

Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to use improvisational methods and structures with confidence and insight.

3. Performance of 2 improvised scores (10%)

Individual and small group. Assessment based on your proficiency in meeting course objectives.

4. Presentation of the final Improvisation Project (10%)

Performance presentation demonstrating your understanding of the course material

Recommended (but not required): Keep a class journal. Keep a written record of your experiences in class. Bring your journal to class and refer to it when reflecting on new insights and questions.

Your consistent effort will be noted and the expectation is that you will be fully engaged in the class. If you are feeling unwell during class time, a alternate form of participation may be arranged as a privilege and only once. Please remember that classes are considered equivalent to assignments; thus, missing classes will be detrimental to your final grade.

If you miss more than 4 classes, you may fail this course. In addition, if you show up late for class twice (or choose to sit out exercises during 2 classes), this will be counted as an absence.

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

<p>FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at picarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. • For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. • For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
<p>ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION</p>	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/access</p>
<p>FOIP</p>	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy</p>
<p>ACADEMIC STANDING</p>	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html</p>
<p>CAMPUS SECURITY</p>	<p>403-220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.</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.
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.
EMERGENCY EVACUATION	http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
LETTER OF PERMISSION	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the UofC, 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.
PLAGIARISM	Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. For details see the University of Calgary Calendar. 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 Writing Centre (3 rd floor TFDL) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
SAFEWALK	220-5333 anytime. http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk
STUDENT MISCONDUCT	http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html
STUDENT UNION CONTACT STUDENT OMBUDSPERSON	Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca , arts3@su.ucalgary.ca , arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society CH C 005 dusuofc@hotmail.com MUS: Music Undergraduate Society CH F 219 UofC Mus Group on Facebook PIVOT: Dance Undergraduate Society CH E 211 pivot@ucalgary.ca

Revised June 2013 in accordance with policy: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-1.html>