



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - DANCE
DNCE 331 Creative Process I: Improvisation
Fall 2015

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| Instructor | Wojciech Mochniej |
| Office | CHD 519 |
| Email | w.mochniej@ucalgary.ca |
| Office Hours | By appointment |
| Day(s),Time(s) and Location of Class | Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:50 Kinesiology A163 (Dance Studio) |
| Out of Class Activities | None. |
| Learning Resources: Required Readings, Textbooks and Materials | Selections from: Albright, Anne Cooper and David Gere. <i>Taken by Surprise: A Dance Improvisation Reader</i> . Middletown, Conn: Wesleyan, University Press, 2003. Buckwalter, Melinda. <i>Composing While Dance: An Improviser's Companion</i> . Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010. Links to ebook selections will be provided on D2L |
| Prerequisites | Dance 209 and 247 or equivalent; or consent of the Division Chair, Dance. |
| Supplementary Fees | None. |
| Course Description | 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. |
| Course Overview | <p>Experiences in individual and group improvisations. Development of skills in designing and participating in improvisational structures.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Students will work solo, in duets, in trios, and as part of the larger group. Group discussion will often follow improvisational exercises.</p> |

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| <p>Course Learning Outcomes</p> | <p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: Explore their <i>organic physical response</i>; by this I mean that we will learn to understand the importance of an uncensored physical response to an image, idea, or given task. They will <i>identify</i> and move away from, or more deeply into <i>known patterns and habits</i>. 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. Students will work on <i>sensing movement development</i>; exploring the skill of following the direction of a movement--sensing where it needs or wants to go. They 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. The successful student will <i>involve themselves deeply in the exploration of stimuli, and respond with movement</i>. Movement invention and authenticity will be a high priority. This is an important skill for creating movement appropriate to the task/situation/score. To explore this fully students will develop the <i>ability to take risks</i>. They will work on developing confidence in movement; listening and following where movement needs to go without 'worrying' about what it looks like. They will learn to <i>physically 'listen' and respond to others in the context of improvised dance</i>. They will work with and <i>develop their own improvisational scores for solo, duet and group work</i>. They will <i>develop the power to work through a challenging task rather</i> than backing away which includes <i>sustaining focus, energy and commitment within an improvised dance</i>. They will learn to explore all these elements and to carry that process into <i>work with partners and groups</i>; to communicate with them through movement, without any need for verbal exchange. They will <i>elevate their understanding of performance</i>, and develop the <i>ability to maintain the improvisational process while performing</i> for an audience. This will require them to <i>keep their concentration and focus on the task or the score</i>.</p> |
| <p>Course Schedule:</p> | <p>Improvised scores due dates TBA Final Improvisation Assignment due November 26 and Dec 1</p> |
| <p>Assessment Components</p> | <p>Students will be evaluated on the degree to which they meet the course objectives and their completion of the course requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 in your performance of the scores. 4. Presentation of the final Improvisation Project (10%) Performance presentation demonstrating your understanding of the course material. |
| <p>Assessment Expectations</p> | <p>Expectations for Writing: Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently,</p> |

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:

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, an 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.

Missing more than 2 classes will have an adverse effect on your final grade. 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.

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

Guidelines for Formatting Assignments

Formatting for scores posted on D2L

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments

Scores should be submitted in hard copy. By email with permission.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit assignments on or before the due dates specified above. A student should contact their instructors in the event that they are unable to complete assignments on time. Late assignments will carry a penalty of 10% per day (or per class in the case of an in class assignment.)

Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass

A passing grade must be achieved on all course assignments.

Grading Scale

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 2015-2016:

| Grade | GPA | Description |
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| 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. |

The following numerical equivalencies will be applied:

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| | <p>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> |
| MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULING | <p>Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (11-22 December for Fall 2015 term; 16-27 April for Winter 2016 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: ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final</p> |
| DEFERRALS OF EXAMS/TERM WORK | <p>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. ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html</p> |
| INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE | <p>elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/ ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app</p> <p>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.</p> |
| ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM | <p>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 (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html) 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.</p> |
| COPYRIGHT | <p>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 (library.ucalgary.ca/copyright).</p> |
| ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION | <p>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 www.ucalgary.ca/access/. 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 http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf .</p> |
| FOIP | <p>ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy</p> |
| STUDENT MISCONDUCT | <p>ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</p> |

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| ACADEMIC STANDING | ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html |
| SAFEWALK | 220-5333 anytime. ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk |
| 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. |
| EMERGENCY EVACUATION | Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. The primary assembly point for Craigie Hall is the Professional Faculties Food Court. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints |
| FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca or call us at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. • 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 success@ucalgary.ca or visit their website at ucalgary.ca/ssc/ for more information or to book an appointment. • 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 futurestudents@ucalgary.ca or visit them at the MacKimmie Block 117. |
| 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. |
| STUDENT UNION CONTACT STUDENT OMBUDSPERSON | <p>Student Union: su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</p> <p>Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; arts4@su.ucalgary.ca</p> <p>Graduate Student's Association: gsa.ucalgary.ca/executive</p> <p>Student Ombudsman: su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights</p> |
| UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS | <p>DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 uofcdus@gmail.com</p> <p>MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 undmusic@ucalgary.ca</p> |