



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: W24 DNCE 343.7. AFRICAN DANCE AND CULTURE
Session: Winter 2024

Instructor	De-Ann Weekes
Email	Deann.weekes@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	10-12am
Day(s),time(s):	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:50am
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Suggested videos and reading materials will be given throughout the course.
Learning Technologies and Requirements	Learning will be in person ONLY. There is no extra time given for assignments. Assignments must be submitted to the drop box D2L. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).
Prerequisites	N/A
Course description	<p>* Cultural Foundations:</p> <p>This is a discussion and embodied based course that is associated with dance styles of West African concept out of Yoruba and its influences to the western world. We want to delve into the historical roots of West African dance, examining its cultural significance and connection to indigenous practices.</p> <p>* West African Traditional Dances:</p> <p>* Investigate the intricacies of Yoruba traditional dances, understanding their symbolic meanings, cultural contexts, and spiritual dimensions.</p> <p>* Analyze the influence of Yoruba dances on global dance forms and their resonance in different regions.</p> <p>* Yanvalou:</p> <p>* Examine the enchanting Yanvalou dance, tracing its origins and cultural associations in the Caribbean, particularly in Haitian Vodou rituals.</p> <p>* Explore the rhythmic patterns, movements, and cultural expressions embedded in Yanvalou.</p> <p>* Global Impact:</p> <p>* Investigate how West African and African dances have transcended geographical boundaries, influencing dance forms worldwide to a joyful experience.</p>

	<p>* Identify the ways in which these dances have been embraced and adapted in different cultural contexts.</p> <p>* Ritual and Religious Connections:</p> <p>* Explore the profound connection between traditional African dances, particularly those of the Yoruba people, and ritual or religious practices.</p> <p>* Examine how dance is intricately woven into the worship of Orishas, unraveling the spiritual dimensions of movement.</p> <p>* Comparative Analysis:</p> <p>* Contrast and compare variations of traditional dances across different regions, understanding how names and styles evolve while preserving their essence.</p>
Course learning outcomes	<p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage in kinetic explorations, allowing students to embody the movements of Yoruba traditional dances and Yanvalou, fostering a deeper understanding of the dance vocabulary. 2. To know of the different traditional rhythms and purposes. 3. Develop intellectual and technical skills, to recognize and understand various types of African dances, fostering a holistic comprehension of the deep correlation between music and movement. Movement initiations and forms. 4. To learn of the history and understand the reason for moments. 5. To improve coordination while exploring a different way of movement. 6. Recognize the importance of improvisation as a key element in the creative process, allowing for the development of personal style within the African dance aesthetic. 7. Acquire a thorough understanding of the Yoruba traditional dances, including their symbolism and cultural context. 8. Identify and analyze the influence of West African/African dance forms, recognizing the impact and diverse traditions. 9. Foster an appreciation for cross-cultural connections and influences. Acknowledging how African dance traditions have enriched and been enriched by global dance dialogues. 10. Effectively communicate insights and analyses related to West African/African dance orally, written and movement forms.
Course schedule	Insert here or confirm if information will be listed on D2L site

Components (Assignment, Paper, Project, Quiz, or Test)	Description	Jan 9- Apr2 2024	Worth (%)
<p>Assignment 1 Assignment and Participation</p>	<p>e Students will be assessed based on attendance, punctuality, participation in classes and group work. As participation is a key part of assessment for this course, please keep track of your attendance. Refer to Undergraduate Calendar E for more information. This will be an ongoing evaluation. I strongly recommend keeping a record.</p> <p>TIME: Jan 9 - Apr 2 2024.</p>		20%
<p>Assignment 2 Midterm Fieldwork Project.</p> <p>Cultural Roots and Movement evaluation of West African/ African. This is an In studio presentation both verbal and embodied movement. A video recording would be taken of student assessment /earning.</p> <p>This Project aims to deepen the understanding of West African cultural roots and your embodiment through movement.</p>	<p>Description This is a community field project that is geared towards cultural awareness. You would need to find social dance environments that teaches West African/African Dance and embody the experience. Take this dance opportunity to appreciate the experience more than once. You must learn a dance and return from the field to share. Choose a peer or a teachers who has connection to the West African or has keen interest in its movement forms and knowledge of the culture interview. Present findings creatively, compile your interview findings into a creative and engaging format including a 750-1000 word written report.</p> <p>Remember to approach the interview with respect and curiosity allowing the participants to share their experiences authentically.</p> <p>TIME: 15-20 Min</p>	<p>Due Feb ,8 &15 Presentations will be assigned randomly.</p>	40%
<p>Assignment 3 Class Discussions on movement, music and practices.</p> <p>Embodying Yanvalou and its</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement and practical participation. Video recordings will be used for assessment. You are advised to keep a class journal.</p>	<p>Due March 14</p>	30%

connection to the ways of physical life.			
Assignment 4 Group Project Choreography and performance (Final project done in class and in class)	This choreographic West African/African project will be done at the end of the semester compiling all the nuances developed through movement and rhematic music. This will be more of a class project. Time: 3-5 mins	Due April 2	10%
Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam:	<p>Grading scale For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in section F.1.Grading System and Transcripts of the Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.</p> <p>A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.</p>		
Assessment expectations	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active Engagement 2. You are expected to attend all classes, be a part of discussions and practical sessions. 3. Complete all assignments. Utilize additional resources for deeper understanding and context. 4. Engage in group activities and projects fostering collaborative learning. 5. Actively participate in kinetic explorations and practical demonstrations of dance and movement. 6. Embody the dance vocabulary learned in class recognizing the importance of physical engagement in understanding dance forms. 7. Foster a respectful and inclusive classroom environment appreciating the diverse perspectives and experiences of classmates. Show consideration for cultural sensitivities when discussing and embodying dance traditions. 8. Dress for movement <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> Missed or late assignments are unacceptable, in case of extenuating circumstances please contact me.</p> <p><u>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u> FOR PASS/FAIL DNCE COURSES</p> <p>Due to the experiential nature of this course, classes are equivalent to assignment Therefore, classes missed will be detrimental to the final grade. More than four (4) missed classes will result in a fail for the course. If you show up late for or leave early from class two (2) times, this will be counted as a full class absence. If for some reason you are feeling unwell during class time, 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.</p>		

	<p>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.</p> <p>Students are responsible for any and all material missed during an absence.</p> <p>If you sustain a significant injury during the term that will impact your participation for longer than a week's worth of classes and if this injury is verified by a medical practitioner's note, your case will be submitted to the Dance Division Committee to address your situation.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, 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.</p>
Grading scale	<p>Undergraduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. <p>Graduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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 Code of Conduct). 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 Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). 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: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.</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 https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>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 (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf).</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. 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/.</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: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf and https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf.</p>

Intellectual Property	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.
Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) 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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html .
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	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.
Student Support	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	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 ascarts@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.
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/