



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS – DANCE

DNCE 581.13: Improvisation Techniques
Winter 2018

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Wojciech Mochniej CHD 519 w.mochniej@ucalgary.ca By appointment
Day(s), Time(s) and Location of Class	T/TH 12-1:50 KNA 163 (DANCE STUDIO)
Learning Resources: Required Readings, Textbooks and Materials	Albright, Anne Cooper and David Gere. Taken by Surprise: A Dance Improvisation Reader . Middletown, Conn: Wesleyan, University Press, 2003. Buckwalter, Melinda. Composing While Dance: An Improviser's Companion . Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010. Links to ebook selections will be provided on D2L
Prerequisites	Consent of the Division Chair, Dance.
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.

<p>Course Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. To identify 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. 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 in order 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 to carry that process into work with partners and groups; to 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.
<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> <p>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, preparedness for discussions of readings, willingness to take risks, and positive contributions to the learning environment.</p> <p><u>Assignment 1: Reading</u> * 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>

	<p>Due: January 23rd - Description: Taken by Surprise, pages 21-38 “Dance: A Body with a Mind of it’s Own” by Ruth Zapora and “The Cutting Edge of Awareness: Reports from the Inside of Improvisation” by Kent DeSpain</p> <p><u>Assignment 2: Reading</u> Due: February 13 - Description: Composing While Dancing, pages 76-90 “Spatial Relations”</p> <p><u>Assignment 3: Reading</u> Due: February 27 - Description: Composing While Dancing page 161-186 “Meet the Artists”</p> <p><u>Assignment 4: Reading</u> Due: March 6th - Description: Taken by Surprise pages 53-74 “Animate Dancing: A Practice in Dance Improvisation” by Simone Forti and “Learning to Speak: An Apprenticeship with Simon Forti in Logomotion” by Carmela Hermann</p> <p><u>Assignment 5: Reading</u> Due: April 10 - Description: Composing While Dancing Choose one of “The Eyes”, “The Possibilities of Music”, or “Partnering Science”</p> <p>2. Movement development, movement invention, development of awareness and skill (35%) Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to use improvisational methods and structures with confidence and insight.</p> <p>3. Assignments 4 and 5: Performance of 2 improvised scores (10%) Due: Individual score February 15, Small Group March 8. Individual and small group. Assessment based on your proficiency in meeting course objectives in your performance of the scores.</p> <p>4. Final Assignment Presentation of the final Improvisation Project (15%) Due: April 3, 5 and 10 Performance presentation demonstrating your understanding of the course material.</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments Scores should be submitted in hard copy. By email with permission.</p> <p>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass A passing grade on all course assignments must be achieved.</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> <p>Guidelines for Formatting Assignments Formatting for scores posted on D2L</p> <p>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 5% the first day and 10% per day thereafter.</p>

Expectations for Attendance and Participation:

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

FOR GRADED DANCE STUDIO COURSES

- 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.
- With regard to participation, classes are considered equivalent to assignments. Thus, more than 2 absences per term will have an adverse effect on your final grade.
- If you miss more than one week of classes, your final grade will begin to drop by as much as 10% per missed class.
- If you miss more than two weeks of classes, you have the potential to fail the course.
- If you show up late for or leave early from class, this will be counted as half an 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.
- 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.
- Students are responsible for any and all material missed during an absence.
- 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.

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					

For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2017-2018:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>*D+</td> <td>1.30</td> <td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*D</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>**I</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CR</td> <td></td> <td>Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RM</td> <td></td> <td>Remedial Work Required. Utilized by the Cumming School of Medicine (MD program). Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Notes:</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. 	*D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	*D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.	F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable.	**I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.	CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable	RM		Remedial Work Required. Utilized by the Cumming School of Medicine (MD program). Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as “Not Included in GPA” where applicable.
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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 ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. 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.</p> <p>The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf</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-5.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>																		
SCPA Librarian	<p>Marc Stoeckle, MLIS, BA Learning & Services Librarian for <i>School of Creative & Performing Arts</i> and <i>School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures</i> Libraries & Cultural Resources, University of Calgary Ph: 403.220.6777, Email: mstoeckle@ucalgary.ca, Office: TFDL 160D</p>																		
Student misconduct	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html																		
FOIP	ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip																		
Emergency evacuation	Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. THE PRIMARY																		

	<p>ASSEMBLY POINT FOR CRAIGIE HALL IS THE PROFESSIONAL FACULTIES FOOD COURT.</p> <p>For classes in the Kinesiology buildings, the primary assembly point is in the MacEwan Student Centre – North Courtyard. The alternate assembly point is in the lobby of the University Theatres.</p> <p>For more information, see the University of Calgary’s Emergency Management website: ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</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>
Safewalk	220-5333 anytime. ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk
Students’ union and ombudsperson contacts	<p>Student Union: su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; arts4@su.ucalgary.ca Graduate Student’s Association: ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html Student Ombudsman: ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact</p>
Midterm and final examination scheduling	<p>Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (Dec. 11-21 for Fall 2017 term; Apr. 16-26 for Winter 2018 term; June 28-30 for Spring 2018 term; Aug. 17-20 for Summer 2018 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>
SCPA Claim Your Seat Program: Student Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Claim Your Seat (CYS) program allows all University of Calgary students to attend on-campus School of Creative and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) events free of charge. 2. Depending on the performance, there is a limited number of seats available for CYS. There is not a guarantee that tickets will be available for all CYS patrons for every performance, based on audience size, demand, etc. 3. CYS tickets are a privilege. If a student receives a ticket to attend a performance, it is expected that they will respect the value of the admission and attend the performance. 4. Process for students: On the date of the performance, from the time the Box Office opens until 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they arrive to the CYS table next to the Box Office and show their Unicard. If students arrive after 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they can go to the Box Office and purchase a ticket at the student rate. Students should not go to the Box Office unless they are purchasing a ticket. 5. If students have a course requirement to attend a performance for a specific date, access to the tickets will be communicated by the instructor to University Theatre Services prior to the event. The best guarantee for a free ticket is to arrive early, up to 45 minutes prior to the performance start time. 6. Respect for the Front of House and theatre staff, performers and fellow patrons is an absolute requirement. Failure to comply with this will lead to being asked to leave the venue and could result in the revoking of CYS privileges.
Academic standing	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html
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.

Copyright	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.ualgary.ca/copyright).
Faculty of Arts program advising and student information resources	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 at ascarts@ualgary.ca or call at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ualgary.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@ualgary.ca or visit their website at ualgary.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@ualgary.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.
Undergraduate associations	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 uofcdus@gmail.com MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 undmusic@ualgary.ca