Course Descriptions
This class will present a series of studies designed to develop student’s individual artistic voices within the medium of dance. Choreography 3 will focus on meaning and communication as we thoroughly consider the deliberate and default choices we make as choreographers. In this class students will be encouraged to risk the (potential) discomfort of unfamiliarity in order to uncover a range of possibilities that might otherwise remain unnoticed and unavailable. This class is practice. This practice mines skills, experience, imaginations and choreographic craft (as well as other disciplines) in order to present compelling and cohesive material with clarity, elegance, and intention. The first half of the semester will contain quick weekly studies while the second half will be devoted to developing a short dance that will be performed at the end of the semester.

Objectives
Students will engage in a series of choreographic studies in order to:

• Examine individual choice, aesthetics, and “point of view”

• privilege inquiry in ways that challenge “known” methods and expand choreographic options

• consider content and context as integral to the choreographic process

• examine dance as a communicative form

• develop observation and awareness of potential meaning and/or relevance (intentional or not) in their own work as well as the work of classmates

• practice precision of specific movement quality and details; realization of a specific image; and the complex task of finding language to articulate clearly about what you are seeing or doing.

• Practice directing: What directive methods are specific enough to inspire collaborators to work in ways that are relevant to the project concept, yet also conducive to revealing potential unknown insights?

Requirements
• Regular attendance and promptness (more than 2 absence will effect your grade, this includes the required performance attendances)
• Attentive presence, participation and contributions to the class (Students are expected to participate in class discussions, in-class research, and feed back sessions when studies are shown)

• Students are expected to work outside of the scheduled class time a **minimum** of 3 hrs weekly- reserved rehearsal times for this class listed below

• Timely completion of reading assignments and movement studies.

• Final project and final performance (including tech. times)

• Attendance to at least two (suggested) dance performances **BUT SEE EVERYTHING YOU CAN!**

• Weekly Journal/Records

**Required Text**
A Director Prepares, Seven Essays on Art and Theater

**Documentation**
Students must collect video documentation of all “studies”

**Reading Assignments**
With each chapter, choose three quotes that you want to remember. Write these quotes in your journals. Be prepared to explain why you chose what you did. Keep these quotes in a single journal with your class and rehearsal notes, we will refer to them throughout the semester and they will be useful when you write your final paper.

**Journals**
This journal will keep weekly records of you rehearsals, readings, and class notes. For each assignment write the date of your entry. (for rehearsals note the date and time- ex: Friday Sept. 10, 3:00-5:00) Take notes on your rehearsals directly after you rehearse while thoughts are fresh…What did you try? What transpired? What surprised you? What “successes” and or “failures” did you experience? What did you learn for next time? What questions do you have? You can also collect images, photos, ideas and writing that seem relevant to your rehearsal process and study-making.

**Rehearsal Groups**
We will be exploring the role of the director in this class. **THIS ROLE is the crux of making work**…how to investigate and communicate with a group.

You will be required to work with other dancers in the second part of the semester. You are responsible for choosing dancers and scheduling rehearsals. You can use others in this class if their rehearsal schedules permit. Your dancers will be required to attend agreed upon rehearsals as well as class on the showing days (Wednesdays, starting week 9,
October 23rd. You are required to work with a consistent group. This is a great opportunity for freshmen to become acquainted with rehearsing and performing here—they can sign up for 1 unit of credit for these rehearsals. Consider collecting a group of dancers to work with during the first few weeks of school even though officially you may not start working with the groups until late October. This will allow dancers/performers to enroll in 499 credit. You must direct from the outside (you are not dancing) for this second part of the semester.

**This casting and scheduling takes time and attention.** It is, in itself, a skill worth practicing in this field and this is part of your coursework and evaluation.

**Rehearsals**
KEYS must be checked out and returned to the Equipment desk in the Music building. (There are limited hours this desk is open so students must plan in advance)
**Class will discuss and reserve Space for this class:**

**Blackboard**
Syllabus, Assignments and announcements will be posted on blackboard as well as a list of website resources.

**Performance**
We will show final projects in public performances on Fri/Sat, December 6 and 7 at 7:30. (Monday and Wednesday class times will be dedicated to tech for this show plus additional tech time if needed.)

**Grading/Evaluation**
Your approach to the class content, active presence, and overall positive attitude are each important parts of evaluation. You are expected to work consistently inside and outside of class time.

**Grading:**

- **6 studies** (including reading, journaling, and in-class research) 50%
  Breakdown: possible 5 pts. each
  “Study” Did the student engage with the week’s research topics? Does the study deal with this material in an artful and considered way? Is rigor evident in the shown material? Was the student able to integrate class reading, discussions, and in-class activities in the week’s rehearsals and the resulting “study”? Was the student able to learn from their own results, journal, and research from previous studies?

- **Final project/performance** 30%
  13-15: (A- to A+) Clear “point of view.” Exceptional Work that has been crafted and edited so that ideas have been thoroughly explored yet there is nothing extraneous and all
choices read as considered. The final demonstrates insight, effort, risk taking, imagination, and clear and effective communication of ideas (that privilege questions) with dancers and audience.

10-12: (B- to B+) This indicates above average work, competent and interesting but still lacking a complete integration of elements or sense of complete consideration. Effective, but less realized “point of view.” Safe.

7-9: (C- to C+) This indicates average work, average effort, basic amount of direction and imagination. Choreographic choices read as somewhat considered. Less “exchange” with dancers and audience (less accessible). More default decisions.

4-6: (D+ to D-) The work is complete but shows less than acceptable effort, imagination and direction. Little consideration.

0-3: (F) Little effort, craft, and imagination. Default choreography.

Final Paper 20%

This paper is an opportunity to review past studies and writing and articulate about your semester of work, findings, and questions.

3 pages.

Attendance policy

The nature of this class necessitates regular class attendance in order to complete class assignments and studies. Students are expected to attend all classes. Please communicate with me if you are unable to be in class for any reason. Situations such as serious illness, long-term injury, or family emergencies may be dealt with immediately on an individual basis. In some cases, students will be given an Incomplete to be made up within the next semester. In other cases, I may recommend withdrawal from the course. If you stop attending the course without following procedure you will receive a “U” which calculates as an “F”.

You are welcome and encouraged to schedule a meeting with me anytime you want (to discuss class, departmental questions, personal issues, etc.)

My posted office hours for this semester are:
M 10-12:30 or by appointment

Blackboard has local events and resources that may be useful and/or inspiring for your art making in this class.

“You are what you eat.”