Fall 2013

COURSE SYLLABUS: DANCE 253 CHOREOGRAPHY I

Course Description
Using the concepts of space, time, and energy to investigate and explore the basic elements of dance choreography. Studies emphasizing solo and small group work. Final solo dance presentation.

Text: *The Intimate Act of Choreography* by Lynn Anne Blom and L. Terin Chaplin. It is available in paperback on Amazon starting at $13.49.

Objectives
1. To demonstrate the understanding that choreography is based on the relationship of specific *motivations* resulting in movement.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the *space* aspects of choreography including design, staging, and group relationships.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of the *energy* aspects of choreography including dynamics and qualities.
4. To demonstrate an understanding of the *temporal* aspects of choreography.
5. To demonstrate an understanding of the use of *abstraction* in choreography.
6. To demonstrate an engagement with the process of presenting movement assignments.
7. To demonstrate the ability to analyze and discuss creative work.

Class Assignments
1. Outside reading of class related material as assigned. Be prepared for oral and/or written quizzes.
2. Preparation and presentation of classroom studies. They will be assigned throughout the semester.
3. Preparation and presentation of final dance solo. Approximate due dates: the first showing, the week of November 4 and the final showing the week of December 2.
5. Full participation in class discussions including developing skills of observation and analysis.
6. Attendance at the following dance concerts.
   - **San Diego Dance Theater Trolley Dances.** Sept. 28-29, Oct. 5-6, (Site specific dances);
   - **Compagnie Nacera Belaza** (Algerian), UCSD, White Box at NTC, Sept. 26, 27, 28, (Transformed space, duo with sister, named “Choreographic Revelation of the Year”);
   - **Lucy Guerin**, Mandeville Theater (Australian), UCSD, 8 PM, Oct. 9, (Weather, seven dancers);
   - **Sydney Dance Company**, Mandeville Theater, UCSD, 8 PM, Oct. 19, (2 One Another, human relationships, sixteen dancers).
For Trolley Dances you will create a dance study that is inspired by or a reaction to one of the dances. We will discuss Compagnie Nacera Belaza in class, referencing the Concert Review Guide. For the Lucy Guerin concert you will create a study based on an identified element from the concert and you will write a paper on your investigation of that element. For the Sydney Dance Company you will fill out the Concert Review Guide. That paper is due October 30.

7. Final Test on December 13, 1-3, ENS 200.

If you are absent the day a paper is due you should submit your paper by email on the due date and bring an identical hard copy to the next class.

Class Requirements

1. All material must be typed.
2. Written and movement assignments must be presented on the assigned date. If you are not in class on the movement assignment date be prepared to present it at the next class meeting.
3. Three absences are allowed. No absences are excused. Make-ups are not possible. Your grade will be lowered one step for each extra absence. Two tardies equal one absence.
4. Be prepared for spot quizzes on assigned readings and classroom discussions.
5. Wear comfortable dance attire, no bare midriff, and hair out of your face. Bring extra clothing to keep warm when not dancing.

Evaluation

20 Class participation. This includes regularly contributing to discussions, coming to class with reading and movement assignments complete and on time, listening attentively, and being respectful of the other class members.
15 Presentation of studies. They should be well rehearsed, presented with confidence, and address the parameters of the study with appropriate solutions.
10 Solo Dance: First showing. This grade is based on the percentage of material completed.
20 Solo Dance: Final showing. Criteria to be given as part of the assignment.
20 Attendance at four dance concerts with accompanying paper or classroom assignment.
15 Final test. (Quiz grades will affect this grade.)

The quickest way to contact me is through BB or email. I do not check my phone every day, or over the weekend.