**COURSE SYLLABUS:** Dance Appreciation 1300-001

Spring 2016

**Instructor:** Meredith Knight

**Office Number:** FA 180

**Email Address:** [meredith.knight@uta.edu](mailto:meredith.knight@uta.edu) (Email is the best way to reach me; please allow up to 24 hours for a response; 48 hours on weekends.)

**Faculty Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/meredith%20-knight>

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 AM or by appointment (Appointments are to be made by emailing me at least 24 hours prior to the desired meeting time.)

**Section Information:** DNCE 1300-001

**Days of Class Meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Time of Class Meetings:** 8-9:20 AM

**Location of Class Meetings:** Science Hall 333

**Required Textbook:** *Learning about Dance: Dance as an Art Form & Entertainment*, 6th Ed. By Nora Ambrosio. ISBN 978-0-7575-7709-3

**Other Requirements:** You will need regular access to Blackboard via the Internet and will need to make sure your computer is updated regularly; otherwise you may have problems taking tests. You will need basic computer skills to access, view, and complete assignments and tests.

Each student is required to attend the Maverick Dance Company’s semester concert, *Via Dance*, and submit proof of attendance. Dates and times are as follows:

* Friday, May 6, 2016 @ 8 PM
* Saturday, May 7, 2016 @ 8 PM
* Sunday, May 8, 2015 @ 2:30 PM

**Description of Course Content:** Designed to develop an awareness and appreciation of dance in its artistic, social, and cultural contexts through an overview of the aesthetic and critical dimensions of viewing and creating various dance idioms. Offers a variety of dance experiences, including the viewing of dance in live and video formats, reading about dance, and experiencing selected dance movements from various dance genres. Explores the relationship of dance to other art forms.

*This class is open to all students as a fine arts elective.*

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Define dance: What is dance?

* + Students will review the scope of dance
  + Students will interpret a variety of artistic and recreational dance forms
  + Students will evaluate physical and conceptual aspects of dance processes

2. Establish an understanding of varying contexts of dance: Why do we dance?

* Students will recognize basic themes of dancing
* Students will be able to relate dance to their own perspectives and human values
* Students will describe the relationship between dance and cultures throughout history

3. Examine perceptions of dance as an art form: What do I feel about dance?

* Students will practice critique processes when viewing dance
* Students will review and discuss artistic and choreographic processes
* Students will recognize the influence of other art forms in relation to dance and aesthetic experience

**Expectations:**

1. Participation – To make the course more exciting and to encourage student interaction, we will be utilizing a variety of instructional formats including class discussion, small group discussion and report, lecture, and movement experience. You will be expected to be involved with the class by attentively listening, actively participating in discussions, and exploring short movement exercises.

2. Attendance - Regular attendance in class is required and is of primary importance. Class attendance is essential because necessary group discussions cannot be replicated outside of class. Films shown in class are NOT in the library. Every three unexcused absences will lower your final grade by 10%. You get one free absence.

3. Class Environment - It is expected that you will be respectful, supportive, and tolerant of each of your colleagues in this class. A multitude of topics and images will be presented in class that may cause discomfort and may reflect one’s life, familial, cultural, or religious experiences. The topics presented are not meant to offend, but to engage and honor differing viewpoints both in the class and in the art world. When engaging in class discussions, it is important to be mindful of how our words and body language can impact others. This is also a general life skill that will serve you outside of the academic setting.

4. Chapter Quizzes – Short quizzes will cover information from the textbook as well as outside assigned reading material. There will be a quiz for each topic/chapter and will be given on Blackboard. These quizzes will count as part of your participation grade.

5. Tests– Tests will cover material from the text as well as from videos, group discussions, and dance labs. Tests will take place on Blackboard. Class time (along with additional time outside of class) will be provided for test-taking.

6. Dance Labs (during class times, dates to be announced) – You will be expected to actively participate during these times. Advance notice will be given for labs as they may be held in another building. Please dress comfortably. Wear shoes or sandals that will stay on your feet during walking, kicking, jumping. You will be expected to take notes, as test questions will include movement session material.

7. Attendance at *Via Dance* – You will be required to attend the Maverick Dance Company’s semester concert. Detailed guidelines will be available on Blackboard.

8. Group Project – With a small group of fellow students, you will curate an evening of dance and present your concert and research in class. Detailed guidelines will be available on Blackboard.

9. Final Solo Project – In response to the group project, you will choreograph a one-minute solo to be filmed and submitted online. Detailed guidelines will be available on Blackboard.

10. Students are expected to log on to UTA and check email and coursework on a daily basis. All assignments must be completed by each deadline: LATE WORK IS UNACCEPTABLE! Students are expected to review assignments prior to the day they are due in case questions arise: no late assignments accepted as a result of misunderstanding or technological failure.

11. All work must be polished, even when writing informally. Grammatical and spelling errors are not acceptable!  Please read your writing aloud, and edit your writing. You may also have someone else review it prior to submission.

12. Students are expected to communicate with the instructor in a timely manner with regard to questions and concerns about the course. Requests will be handled by the instructor on an individual basis.

**Course Schedule:**

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Meredith L. Knight.*

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| --- | --- |
| Jan 19 & 21 | Syllabus, Introduction & Ch. 1 Dance as an Art Form |
| Jan 26 & 28 | Ch. 2 The Choreographer and Choreographic Elements &  Movement Observation |
| Feb 2 & 4 | Ch. 3 The Dancer & Ch. 4 The Audience, Film |
| Feb 9 & 11 | Film & **Test 1** |
| Feb 16 & 18 | Ch. 8 World Dance & Ch. 10 Social Dance |
| Feb 23 & 25 | Ch. 5 Ballet |
| Mar 1 & 3 | Ch. 6 Modern Dance |
| Mar 8 & 10 | Ch. 7 Improvisation & Film |
| Mar 15 & 17 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK |
| Mar 22 & 24 | Site Specific Dance & Dance and Technology (off book) & **Test 2** |
| Mar 29 & 31 | Ch. 9 Jazz/Musical Theater/Tap |
| Apr 5 & 7 | Curating a Dance Concert (off book) & **Group Project Prep** |
| Apr 12 & 14 | Group Work Days |
| Apr 19 & 21 | **Group Presentations** & **Solo Project Prep** |
| Apr 26 & 28 | Ch. 12 Careers & Ch. 11 Production |
| May 3 & 5 | Theater Tour & **Test 3** |
| Final Exam Meeting  (Week of May 9) | Solo Projects Due on Blackboard |

**Method of Evaluation:**

*Your grade will be determined by your performance in the following four areas:*

* Lecture Participation – 40% (based on daily attendance and active participation)
  + 20% posted at midterm & 20% posted at final
* Attendance at the Maverick Dance Company’s semester concert, *Via Dance* – 10%
* Tests – 30% (3 at 10% each – based on readings, in-class discussions, and viewings)
* Group Research Presentation – 10%
* Final Solo Project – 10%
  + 5% individual self-evaluation, 5% instructor evaluation

**Grading Criteria:**

Your grade is heavily weighted on your participation. Participation points will be earned through daily participation with an average score (out of 10 points) posted at midterm and final. Please consult your instructor for additional feedback at any time during the semester. Students should demonstrate sincere, authentic effort and an understanding of the many facets of dance through readings and observations. In addition, preparation for and participation in class discussion of dance examples is expected. Analytic discussion and thoughtful questions are encouraged and will affect your participation grade in a positive manner.

*Active engagement in class 1-5*

*Knowledge of material and critical thinking skills 1-5*

*Daily participation grades are on a 10-point scale*

**Grading Scheme:**

A = 90 & above | B = 80-89 | C = 70-79 | D = 60-69 | F = 59-below

**Grading Scale:**

**A 10-9** The student demonstrates a clear ability to understand and articulate the concepts presented, has thoroughly mastered the subject, displays marked initiative and exhibits intellectual curiosity. The student shows a full range of skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

**B 8-7** The student has fulfilled the requirements and has achieved excellence in all aspects of the work including complete attentiveness, accuracy of knowledge, independence, creativity, and critical thought. The student demonstrates most levels of skills including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

**C 6-5** The student shows evidence of knowledge about the subjects and is able to analyze concepts.  However, this student takes very little initiative or leadership in his or her learning and does not show full attention throughout the entire class.

**D 4-3** The student takes very little initiative or leadership in learning and is consistently unprepared or unaware of concepts.  She or he is consistently disruptive and shares little energy with the class as a whole.

**F 2-1** The student has failed to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of any of the class subject matter or concepts. This student has failed to acquire or retain skills specific to class material, takes no initiative or leadership in learning and is closed to the subject matter.

**Policies:**

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, either by the instructor or via a student sign-in sheet. **Students who enroll during the late enrollment period should understand absences begin accruing on the FIRST day of classes and not on the student’s start/enrollment date.** Each student is allowed ONE FREE absence. Every three unexcused absences will drop a student’s grade by 10%. The largest portion of your final grade will be based on in-class participation. You will be allowed to make up missed work if a doctor’s note or excuse for a university-sponsored activity is presented, **no later than one week after the absence**. An emergency or extended illness will be dealt with on an individual basis. Please contact the instructor with questions or concerns.

* At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each and every faculty member is **free** to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. *As the instructor of this section, I have chosen to take attendance, and all elements cited in this Required Attendance Policy are crucial to student success in this course. –MK*

**Cell Phones:** Please have your cell phones on silent or off during class, and refrain from texting. Phones should be left in backpacks or purses, not out on your desk. Treat your education like a job and be professional. The only reason a cell phone should be utilized is for a family or work emergency. If this is the case, please let the instructor know ahead of time.

**Conference Attendance Policy:**

Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and graduate school auditions. However, Theatre Arts majors are required to submit an excused absence request

to the instructor no less than two full weeks prior to the conference/audition in order for the instructor to consider granting an excused absence. Such notification must be in writing and support documentation will be required to verify the Theatre Arts major’s attendance, completion and/or successful (or professionally worthwhile) participation in said conference or audition. All students are expected to complete all coursework (as stipulated in the syllabus) and all course requirements (as stipulated by the syllabus) in a timely manner (the term “timely manner” will be defined/specified by the instructor at the time the Theatre Arts major submits their excused absence request to the instructor for initial consideration). At the discretion of the instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, Theatre Arts majors are advised to fully consult with the instructor prior to engaging in such activities.

**Course Attendance and Production Assignments:**

Students cast in acting roles or who have lead technical or design assignments in UTA productions are required to attend class on a regular basis. Failure to do so shall result in the student being reported to the student's Area Head for their degree plan and the Production Manager and may result in the student being replaced in their production assignment.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).** Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*. For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

**UTA Libraries**:

Library Home Page <http://www.uta.edu/library>

Subject Guides [http://libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu" \t "_blank)

Subject Librarians [http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php](http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php" \t "_blank)

Course Reserves [http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do](http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do" \t "_blank)

Library Tutorials [http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php](http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php" \t "_blank)

Connecting from Off- Campus [http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus](http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus" \t "_blank)

Ask A Librarian [http://ask.uta.edu](http://ask.uta.edu/" \t "_blank)

**Librarian to Contact:** Diane Shepelwich (Theatre Arts), [dianec@uta.edu](mailto:dianec@uta.edu), 817-272-7521

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

**Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.**

**EMAIL ASSIGNMENT:**

As college students, it is important that you know how to communicate formally and respectfully with your professors and peers. This includes all virtual lines of communication such as email. As part of your syllabus agreement, you are to send an email to your instructor that includes the following:

**An appropriate heading** ("Dear Meredith," "Hello Meredith," "Good evening, Meredith," etc.)

**A brief introduction that tells the email recipient who you are as well as the reason for emailing** (for example, "My name is Sally Smith, and I am in your Dance Appreciation course at UTA. I am emailing you about...")

**Fill out the following paragraph, and copy/paste it into the body of the email:**

***I, [insert your name], have read the course syllabus for Dance Appreciation 1300-001, and I understand what is expected of me as a student enrolled in this course. I agree to adhere to all guidelines, expectations, and due dates to the best of my ability. Furthermore, I will communicate any questions or concerns with my professor in a timely manner and will treat all involved in the course with respect.***

**Proper use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and syntax** (no text message language)

Your agreement is **due in email form to the instructor (**[meredith.knight@uta.edu](mailto:meredith.knight@uta.edu)**) by 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 24**. In order to receive full credit, your email must address ALL of the above listed guidelines. *(Hint: There are four.)*