

DANC 4305, Fall 2011
Senior Projects and Career Management

Instructor: Sophia L. Torres
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"I always try to speak about all of us, about what we feel, about our same language, about our wishes, our hope, our desires, our fears, about love, about yes, being human -- and how beautiful each person is, and how fragile each person is... And I think all of these together is what I have to say." -Pina Bausch

Office Hours: Mon / Wed 4:00-5:00pm

Class time: Mon / Wed 2:30-4:00pm
Room: WT 207

DESCRIPTION

The course will provide advanced students an opportunity to apply their compositional skills in movement investigation, experimentation, observation and analysis to develop an original culminating work of choreography. Additionally, students will examine the possibilities for professional development and explore career opportunities in the field of dance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Create interesting and original movement using skills acquired in composition and improvisation classes.
- Make conscious choices and analyze the methods used to create the new work.
- Develop movement vocabulary connected to the work theme.
- Apply critical thinking skills to problem solve in the development of the dance.
- Develop skills to analyze and clearly articulate your work and that of others through critical response and other feedback structure.
- Examine personal and professional goals in the field of dance.
- Build a portfolio of the choreographic process which includes a resume and artist statement.
- Present choreographed work –in – progress for faculty review throughout the semester.
- Present a completed choreographic work for an audience at the end of the semester.
- Complete project proposal and budget for Individual Artist Grant.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will gain knowledge of career and funding opportunities for dance artists through reading, discussions and class assignments.
- Students will explore and apply choreographic tools in a practical manner as complete works are developed.
- Students will improve critical thinking and verbal skills as works are critically analyzed in class.
- Students will develop problem solving skills as choreographic work is created, performed analyzed and revised.

REQUIRED READING:

Poor Dancer's Almanac by White, Friedman, and Levinson.

Excerpts from *Dance from the Campus to the Real World (and back again)* by Suzanne Callahan. Additional articles will be provided throughout the semester. Please refer to the Course Outline for reading details.

EVALUATION / GRADING

1. FINAL CHOREOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION (40%)

Each student will present a completed choreographic work. The grade will be based on diligence toward movement investigation and originality; consistency of work habits in class, rehearsal and production areas; evidence of self challenge in the work; responsiveness to faculty critique demonstrated in the revision of work; and overall success of completed work.

2. FRIDAY AFTERNOON DANCE SHOWINGS/ FADS (15%)

Students are required to present their work in **ALL (3)** Friday Afternoon Dance (FAD) Showing. The first two FADS, scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 23 AND OCTOBER 14 @ 4-6PM** will showcase students' works-in-progress. The third FAD, scheduled for **November 4 @ 2pm** is the showing of the student's completed work. The showings are designed to give students constructive feedback about their works from the UH dance faculty and dance peers. Accepted works will be presented in the Emerging Choreographers' Showcase Dance Concert on **Friday, December 2 @ 7:30pm and Saturday, December 3 @ 2pm & 7:30pm**. Works not accepted will be presented in class during the scheduled final exam time.

3. PROJECT PORTFOLIO (15%)

Students are required to maintain a project portfolio in the form of a 3 ring binder. The portfolio should contain the following: artist statement, artist biography, resume, project proposal, budget, rehearsal schedule (both personal AND full cast), dancer names and contact information, costume sketches with design samples, music details, media release, postcard sample designs and documentation of work (photos, video clips, reviews). Portfolios will be graded on organization and completion.

4. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT PROJECTS (10%)

In order to better prepare students for the realities of producing art, each student will fill out and complete the Houston Arts Alliance application for the New Works Fellowship Grant for Emerging Artists. Research and proposal development along with artist statement and support materials will accompany the application.

5. QUIZ (10%)

Students will take two quizzes during the semester based on information provided from the reading material and in class discussion.

6. CLASS PARTICIPATION (5%)

This grade is based on thoughtful verbal participation in critical response to work viewed in class and class discussion of reading assignments.

7. YEAR ONE PLAN (5%)

Each student will create their first year plan upon graduation. The plan should include the following information: personal goals, location options, personal skill sets; web of connectivity.

Grading Scale for ALL Theatre & Dance

Percentage %	Letter Grade
94-100	A
90 – 93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

ALL STUDENTS in a degree plan for Dance at the University of Houston **must** meet the GPA protocol for the School of Theatre: Students who receive below a 2.5 grade in a major/minor/cert class will be placed on probation. Student must re-take class and complete with a minimum 2.5 grade. Please see the handout on GPA protocol for majors.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance IS MANDATORY. Participation is crucial to the learning of dance. THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN AN EXCUSED OR AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. If the student has an injury or contagious illness, please discuss it with the professor. Please notify the instructor before class begins if you must leave before a class has ended. The *School of Theatre Attendance Policy* will apply to this course.

MAKE-UP / EXTRA CREDIT

There are no makes-ups or extra credit options for Senior Project / Career Management. The purpose of this class is to develop and complete a culminating work of choreography. Class attendance and participation are crucial to the success of your work and your grade.

DAN 4305 FALL 2011: SENIOR PROJECTS AND CAREER MANAGEMENT

WEEK 1	COURSE OUTLINE	DUE
Aug 22	Introduction: syllabus, course expectation, announcements Sign up for personal rehearsal time slots Project exploration	
Aug. 24	Project proposal development <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 1 (pgs.3-12)</i> DANCE STUDENT ORIENTATION & Pizza Party@ 4 pm in Melcher Gym *REQUIRED ATTENDENCE FOR ALL DANCE STUDENTS.	
WEEK 2		
Aug. 29	Discussion of Essay #1 <i>Assigned Reading (handout): "Finding Physicality, Finding Context"</i> Develop project timeline.	
Aug. 31	Discussion: Artist Statement <i>Assigned reading: The Mission Statement (pgs. 194-195)</i> Work session: Draft 1 of artist statement	DUE: Cast contact sheet; personal & full cast rehearsal schedule.
WEEK 3		
Sept. 5	No Class / Labor Day	
Sept. 7	Discussion: The Show <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 2 (pgs 15-50)</i> Work session: Music selections.	DUE: Project timeline.
WEEK 4		
Sept. 12	Discussion: Essay 2 <i>Assigned reading (handout) Getting Close to Real</i> Work session.	DUE: Press Release.
Sept. 14	Begin Individual Artist Grant Project	
WEEK 5		
Sept. 19	Work Session	
Sept. 21	Preparation for FAD #1	
Sept 23	FAD #1 @ 4pm (Melcher Gym)	
Sept. 23-24	Texas Contemporary Dance @ 8pm Miller Outdoor Theatre	
WEEK 6		
Sept.26	Feedback from FAD #1 Discussion Essay #3 <i>Assigned reading (handout) The Business of Art</i> Work session.	DUE: IAGP: Project overview & artist statement
Sept. 28	Discussion: Management <i>Chapter 3: Taking Care of Business (pgs. 69-94)</i>	
WEEK 7		
Oct. 3	Discussion: Government Financial Services <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 3 (95-114)</i>	DUE: IAGP: Impact on Tourism & Feasibility
Oct 5	Discussion: Budgeting <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 3 (114-136)</i>	
WEEK 8		
Oct. 10	Work session: Budget worksheet	

Oct. 12	Preparation for FAD #2	DUE: IAGP Project Budget Worksheet
Oct. 14	FAD #2 @ 4:00pm in Melcher 230	
WEEK 9		
Oct. 17	Feedback from FAD #2	DUE: IAGP Financial Information Form
Oct. 19	Discussion: The Marketplace <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 4 (181-210)</i>	
WEEK 10		
Oct. 24	Discussion: Resume & Bios Work Session: Draft 1 of resume & bio	
Oct. 26	Discussion: Essay #4 <i>Reading assignment (handout): First Steps</i> Work session: Personal goals	
WEEK 11		
Oct 31	Work session	DUE: Resume & Bio
Nov. 2	Preparation for FAD #3	
Nov. 4	FAD #3 @ 4:00pm in Melcher 230	
WEEK 12		
Nov. 7	Discussion: Essay #5 <i>Reading assignment (handout) Work Life</i> Work session: Identifying skill sets	DUE: Final Artist Statement
Nov. 9	Portfolio & IAPG review	
WEEK 13		
Nov. 14	Discussion: Location, location, location <i>Assigned reading: Chapter 7: (pgs. 287-305)</i> <i>Work session: Location Worksheet</i>	
Nov. 16	Discussion: Essay #6 <i>Assigned reading: Next Steps</i> Work session: A Web of Connectivity	
WEEK 14		
Nov. 21	Work session.	
Nov.23-26	No Class / Thanksgiving Holiday	
WEEK 15		
Nov. 28	Discussion: Community <i>Assigned reading : Chapter 6 (pgs. 267-281)</i>	DUE: First Year Plan
Nov.30	Open Discussion – Guest speaker.	DUE Completed Project Portfolio & HAA Grant
Dec. 2	EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOWCASE 7:30PM Wortham Theater, UH Campus *REQUIRED ATTENDENCE FOR ALL DANCE STUDENTS. SIGN IN SHEETS WILL BE MONITORED AT CONCERT.	
Dec. 3	EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOWCASE 2PM & 7:30PM Wortham Theater, UH Campus	
Dec. 12	FINAL SHOWING @ 2PM *Final showing and videotaping of your completed original work. Costume, set and production ideas will be presented at the showing by each choreographer. Guests invited.	