

DANC1010: DANCE IN CULTURE

Spring Intensive 2025

(3 CREDITS)

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Department of Continuing Education,
in collaboration with the School of Dance

Instructor: Jasmine Stack

Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers

Email: please use Canvas Inbox

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

This course meets on the following dates:

March 10-14th, 8am - 5pm

April 14th, 6pm - 8pm

Location: PAB 103, MCD 240

Daily Schedule includes:

- Discussion-based lectures
- Beginner dance classes with a guest instructors
- Short in-class quizzes and assignments

* Students will have 1 hour for lunch, as well as short breaks throughout the day

* Students will have assigned readings/videos to complete outside of class each evening. Some assignments will be due prior to the first day of class (see below in "Course Requirements & Assignments").



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

DANC 1010 explores dance as a way of knowing and understanding culture. Utilizing five epistemological lenses (historical, religious, social, aesthetic, and kinesthetic) we will be examining dance as an identifier and descriptor of cultural phenomena including colonialism, multiculturalism, nationalism, revolution and regime change, exoticism, and societal privilege, amongst others. Viewing dance in this way is based upon the assumption that the aesthetics of movement reveal underlying beliefs and values existing within a culture.

This course contributes to an understanding of dance/movement as a means for recognizing and appreciating difference. As contemporary students living in the United States, each of us is in some way inextricably tied to the value systems and traditions of this country. In designing an open forum in which to analyze and discuss those ties, this course will provide insight into both personal and cultural identity, as well as work to cultivate an understanding of and appreciation for the diverse forms of cultural expression both in the United States and throughout the world.

*Please note that the content and discussion in this course will necessarily engage with a number of sensitive topics, including (but not limited to) violence, racism, sexism, sex work, and nudity. We will work together to navigate these difficult topics with empathy and thoughtfulness in the classroom.



This course holds a designation in both Fine Arts and Diversity. Woohoo!

FINE ARTS DESIGNATION: Courses in the fine arts introduce students to ways of experiencing and understanding a variety of artistic concepts, structures, and forms. Such courses explore the world through varying aesthetic viewpoints and seek to foster critical and creative interpretations of artistic expression.

DIVERSITY DESIGNATION: The Diversity requirement stands as an institutional commitment to develop and teach ways of thinking which draw from the multiple histories and cultural heritages that shape the United States. Courses which fulfill this requirement are designed to explore the national society—its norms, laws, public policies and discourse—in the context of the rich and varied cultural diversity which has shaped it. The goal of this requirement is to extend cross-cultural understanding, perhaps replacing the impulse to stereotype with better informed reasoning, understanding, and judgment skills. This, in turn, will open possibilities for meaningful communication across social boundaries and allow students to better consider ethical and social decisions from multiple perspectives. This requirement also signals to students that their distinctive traditions, opinions, and insights belong at the university.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through this course students will have gained:

- A greater appreciation of dance as an intellectual and physical art form, and deeper understanding of the ways in which dance reflects cultural histories, values, and beliefs.
- The language and skills to observe, analyze, dialogue and write about dance as a product of culture, using diverse viewpoints and empathetic perspectives.
- The experience of learning from notable guest artists who specialize in specific cultural dance forms.
- The ability to synthesize course materials with one's own viewpoints.

LEARNING METHODS:

As a part of this course, you will learn by:

- **Embodying:** Participate in various cultural dance forms taught by incoming guest artists (*previous dance training not required - students graded on participation, not perfection)
- **Noticing Deeply:** Engage in critical reflections of readings and videos that aim to sharpen your own understanding of the material.
- **Taking Action:** Participate in creative and collaborative learning with your peers on shared discussion boards, in order to consider different perspectives and reach new understandings.



● **Exhibiting Empathy:** Participate in observing and listening seriously to the insights of others, especially those with different backgrounds and life experiences.

● **Reflecting and Assessing:** Participate in writing exercises and assignments that allow for reflection on and assessment of concepts and experiences from the course material.

● **Questioning Purposefully:** Participate in student or instructor posed questions to foster critical and creative thinking that sharpens thinking skills.

Required Materials:

There is no textbook for this class! All required readings and/or videos will be posted to Canvas prior to March 10th. When meeting the week of class, students will be expected to complete readings and/or videos nightly to prepare for the next day's lecture and quiz. If this sounds difficult, I encourage you to start working your way through this content before we meet in class. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Canvas site, as it will regularly be used as a resource and tool for learning in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance:

Please be disciplined about attending the full length of class. Missing class is not permitted. Arriving late or leaving early is not permitted. You **MUST** attend the full length of all 5 days of the course in order to receive credit. This is a mandatory requirement outlined by the department of Continuing Education for intensive-style courses.

Intellectual Participation & Active Engagement in Class:

Class discussions, lectures, and activities will include various contexts and functions of dance, and will bring into focus complex issues related to diverse personal and social identities. This course is reliant upon an atmosphere of trust wherein cultural differences, and differences of opinion, may reside with mutual respect.

Intellectual participation and active engagement means interaction, positive contribution, and professionalism in the classroom. You will be expected to take responsibility of your own learning - to explore, investigate, analyze, share, and inquire during each class period.

10 points



**Assignments for this course are divided into 3 separate categories:
Pre-Course Work, Course Work, and Post-Course Work**

PRE-COURSE WORK:

(assignments to complete before our week of class)

Read and Watch the following:

1. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" by Horace Miner
2. TBD
3. TBD

Students will be quizzed on topics from the above listed sources on the first day of class, March 10th (see "Morning Quiz" below). All assigned readings and videos for this course, including those listed above, can be found in the "Modules" tab on Canvas. Note-taking is strongly encouraged! You will be permitted to use hand-written notes for the quizzes in this course.

"What is my Culture?" Written Assignment:

Students will write a 2 page response to various prompts related to their understanding of culture, personal heritage, and dance.

Full instructions and formatting guidelines can be found in the "Pre-Course Work" Module on Canvas.

10 points

Due: Friday, March 7th - submit on Canvas

COURSE WORK:

(assignments we'll work through in-class during the week of March 10th - 14th)

Morning Quizzes:

Morning Quizzes will occur at the beginning of the day, and will test students on the content from the previous evening's assigned readings and/or videos. Readings and videos can be found in the "Modules" tab on Canvas.

15 points each

Daily Written Assignments:

At the end of each class, students will complete a 1 page written response to a prompt given by the instructor. Prompts will be based on the subject matter discussed that day, giving students the opportunity to review, absorb, and synthesize the information.

5 points each



POST-COURSE WORK:

(assignments to complete after our week of class)

Final Exam:

The Final Exam will test students on the course material covered in the in-class lectures, the assigned readings, as well as the information taught by invited guest artists. The exam will be posted to Canvas on August 19th. Format will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, true or false, and short essay questions.

50 points

Due: April 14th - submit on Canvas

Dance of Choice Assignment (research paper & performance):

Part 1 - Historical & Aesthetic Analysis

For the first part of this assignment, you will be engaging in the research and analysis of a dance of your choosing, with the intent to find and write about two notable moments in which historical events have influenced or altered aesthetic components of your chosen dance. This is based upon the premise that a dance's aesthetic characteristics are not born out of happenstance, but rather are influenced by their broader surrounding context - and it's up to you to connect these dots.

30 points

Due: April 14th - submit on Canvas

Part 2 - Kinesthetic Research and Performance

For the second part of this assignment, you will be engaging in the kinesthetic research of your dance of choice; learning, practicing, and memorizing 1 minute of choreography, which you will present in a demonstration for your classmates in the MCD studios on April 14th. Full instructions and formatting guidelines in “Post-Course Work” on Canvas

15 points

In-studio showings on April 14th, MCD 240

POINTS BY ASSIGNMENT:

Assignment	Points
Intellectual Participation & Active Engagement	10
“What is my Culture” Written Assignment	10
Morning Quizzes	75 (15 points per submission)
Daily Written Assignment	25 (5 points per submission)
Dance of Choice Assignment Part 1	30
Dance of Choice Assignment Part 2	15
Final Exam	50
TOTAL POINTS	215 pts

GRADING SCALE:



A	=	94 - 100 %
A-	=	90 - 93 %
B+	=	87 - 89 %
B	=	83 - 86 %
B-	=	80 - 82 %
C+	=	77 - 79 %
C	=	73 - 76 %
C-	=	70 - 72 %
D+	=	67 - 69 %
D	=	63 - 66 %
D-	=	60 - 62 %
F	=	0 - 59 %

(90 – 100%) = Excellent; all expectations met or exceeded; explicitly demonstrates thorough understanding; no substantive shortcomings or only minor shortcomings; writing is well organized; adheres to rules of grammar, spelling, and syntax with no or very few exceptions

(80 – 89%) = Good; most or all expectations are met; explicitly or implicitly demonstrates good, if not thorough, understanding; only minor substantive shortcomings; writing is generally well organized; mostly adheres to rules of grammar, spelling, and syntax

(70 – 79%) = Satisfactory; directions are followed, most expectations are met but with at least one significant shortcoming; despite any shortcomings, demonstrates basic level of understanding; writing is organized well enough and with enough technical accuracy to be understandable

(60 – 69%) = Passing, but less than satisfactory; directions only partially followed; more than one significant shortcoming; deficiencies indicate only the most rudimentary level of understanding; and/or writing is difficult or impossible to understand

(0 – 59%) = Failing; not completed or directions not followed; deficiencies indicate lack of understanding; and/or incoherent writing



GENERAL POLICIES:

Canvas: Canvas is the University of Utah's course management system. You are responsible for your own awareness of all course content disseminated on Canvas throughout the semester, including assignment due dates, with or without reminders from the instructor. In order to ensure that you receive all important course information in a timely manner, please take time to set up your campus email (UMail) properly.

Student Responsibilities and Academic Integrity: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting and in all course-related interactions with faculty and fellow-students. It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic

dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>

Plagiarism Policy: In this course, plagiarism is defined as "... representing, intentionally or unintentionally, the words or ideas of another as one's own work without correctly acknowledging the source, in any educational setting."

(Adapted from UMass Lowell's definition of plagiarism).

This includes material from published sources, internet sources, generative AI tools, and even other students' work.

While you are encouraged to study with your classmates and discuss information and concepts covered in class together, this should never result in either party copying work done by another and presenting it as their own. **Any form of plagiarism, regardless of intent, will not be tolerated in this course. Any submitted assignment that demonstrates plagiarized content will receive an immediate grade of zero points and the student will be notified of the incident via UMail.**

In the first incident students will be given the opportunity to correct and resubmit their work, however any future assignments received that demonstrate plagiarized content will be given zero points without the option of resubmission. It is the responsibility of the student to learn and use the correct methods of avoiding plagiarism in each class. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please use this website as a guide: <https://campusguides.lib.utah.edu/c.php?g=237735&p=1585525>. Feel free to contact me if you are unsure of when and/or how to cite a source.



In the first incident students will be given the opportunity to correct and resubmit their work, however any future assignments received that demonstrate plagiarized content will be given zero points without the option of resubmission. It is the responsibility of the student to learn and use the correct methods of avoiding plagiarism in each class. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please use this website as a guide: <https://campusguides.lib.utah.edu/c.php?g=237735&p=1585525>. Feel free to contact me if you are unsure of when and/or how to cite a source.

I may elect to use a plagiarism detection service in this course, in which case you will be required to submit your paper to such a service as part of your assignment.

Artificial Intelligence Policy: Please note that the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools is not permitted in this course. **Any submitted assignment that demonstrates the use of generative AI will receive an immediate grade of zero points and the student will be notified of the incident via UMail.** In the first incident students will be given the opportunity to correct and resubmit their work, however any future assignments received that demonstrate the use of generative AI will be given zero points without the option of resubmission.

I may elect to use an AI detection service in this course, in which case you will be required to submit your paper to such a service as part of your assignment.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for

accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Accommodations Policy: Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with the instructor at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah's Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.

Wellness Statement: Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc. can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness- www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776

Safety Statement: The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at (801) 585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Non-Contract Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for the course. Please note that the instructor may modify the syllabus at any time with reasonable notice given to students. The instructor may also modify the schedule at any time to accommodate the needs of the class. Should you have any questions or concerns about the syllabus, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification.

* Visit the following website for information on deadlines to drop (delete), add, elect CR/NC, audit, withdraw, or reverse CR/NC:
<http://registrar.utah.edu/academic-calendars/spring2025.php>