Independent Choreography Project, MFA Thesis Research Lab
Syllabus
DANC:4452, DANC:4453

The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Dance
Instructor: arranged through a Departmental audition
Course Supervisor: Rebekah Kowal, DEO Dance

Course Description
Students in these courses are selected only through an audition and will participate in the process of creating, rehearsing creative research produced by students enrolled in Choreography, Graduate Independent Choreography Project, or Thesis courses. Please consult the “Department of Dance Auditions, Casting, and Rehearsal Guidelines” document for more information.

Dancers will be required to analyze movement vocabulary and adapt general principles to specific movement challenges. Students will also engage in various professional models of creating and rehearsing: learning material taught by the choreographer, altering or inflecting material as directed, and responding to creative assignments. Students will practice receiving and/or participating in critical feedback, and are guided in understanding the individual performer's responsibility in achieving the success of the whole work.

Course Objectives
• Improve ability to observe, analyze, and embody the required movement language of the dance with increasing speed and accuracy.
• Develop greater artistry in the treatment and/or interpretation of new movement material.
• Improve ability to contribute to the creative process as a performer by investing one's complete attention and intelligence in executing the work-in-progress, and/or through participating in movement development at the direction of the choreographer.
• Develop aesthetic and creative flexibility in the practical application of technique to a specific choreography.
• Improve ability to perform when "practicing."

Requirements
• Bring full attention and energy to the rehearsal process.
• Contribute to a productive and positive working environment through consistency, discipline, creativity, and adaptability.
• Attend all rehearsals and all scheduled showings.
• Appropriately apply individual research from technique, improvisation, and choreography to one's role as interpreter, performer, and/or co-creator of the dance.

Evaluation
Evaluation is determined on an ongoing basis. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) will be used for all courses. Grades will be assessed based on student performance in the following aspects of the creative process. Students will be graded on how they meet course objectives and requirements in both the rehearsal process and in showings. Students who do not meet all course requirements, such as attendance at all rehearsals and showings, and appropriate and expected contribution to all course activities will receive a “U” grade.
• Attendance/Promptness: prompt attendance at all rehearsals, meetings, fittings, showings, and performances.
• Applies Technical Skill/Adapts to Specific Choreography: speed of learning, accuracy, clarity, musicality, details, applies corrections.
• Contributes to a Productive Working Environment: brings full energy, attention, willingness and motivation to assigned tasks. Use of cell phones is discouraged in all rehearsals. Excessive use of phones or other digital devices, and/or engaging in distracting and disruptive conversation could have an adverse effect on your final grade.
• Artistic Treatment of Assigned Materials: offers interesting adaptations, inflections, interpretations or a unique presence in the movements assigned.
• Creative Contribution: engagement, openness, skill in movement development, manipulation of material, response to creative tasks.
• Performs while practicing: demonstrates the results of the process, gives the choreographer a “full-out” performance from which to evaluate the dancer and the dance.

Enrollment Status and Excessive Hours Statement

Enrollment Status
Please be aware that if you are enrolled as a half-time student (Undergraduate students: 5 or less s.h. per semester, Graduate students: 4 or less s.h. per semester) and register for a performance credit your enrollment status could change to three-quarter or full-time. Please notify the instructor of record and the Department of Dance Academic Coordinator if you do not wish to receive credit for this course.

Excessive Hours
Students who are enrolled as full time students at or above 18 semester hours must notify the Department of Dance Academic Coordinator in order to obtain special permission to add excess hours. The Department of Dance encourages students enrolled in dance performances to meet the following guidelines for excessive hours outlined by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences:

Permission for 19 hours requires:
2.0 minimum GPA
Evidence of previous substantial (15+ graded hours) and successful semesters

Permission for 20 hours requires:
2.5 minimum GPA
Evidence of previous substantial (15+ graded hours) and successful semesters

Permission for 21 hours requires:
3.0 minimum GPA
Evidence of previous substantial (15+ graded hours) and successful semesters
Students may petition for permission to take 22 semester hours or more but such permission is granted rarely and only in very special circumstances.

Permission for excess hours is a privilege. If you perform poorly or drop any of your courses, then permission for excess hours may not be granted in a future semester.