

Winter 2024
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University

Barbara Sarma / bsarma2@uwo.ca
Office hours: by appointment
Dance Studio: Alumni Hall 17, 519-661-2111 Ext. 88396

Independent Study: Intermediate Dance Composition & Production DANCE 4491B

Course Description

Group creative movement exploration and problem-solving using form and structure of movement to express ideas, images and/or feelings in the finished product of a dance composition.

Half course: 1 hour lecture, 3 hours lab; In-Person Format.

Prerequisite: Special Permission.

Prerequisites:

1. Special permission of the Faculty
2. Familiarity with the elements of dance: time, space, motion, and shape
3. Understanding and experience using improvisation as a process
4. Ability to create a movement phrase
5. Experience creating a variety of compositions including theme and variation

Course Format

Early sessions of the class will be devoted to defining and discussing who uses movement combinations, patterns, and sequences and why; the basic elements that are present in all movement combinations, patterns, and sequences; essential and accessory components; and various approaches to selecting and finding movement.

In general, students will progress through a series of specific movement problems in order to apply the theoretical information and observe various outcomes. A very important part of this learning process is allowing students in the class to observe each other and listen to the instructor evaluations. As the course progresses, students will be expected to take more responsibility in the evaluation, show greater skill in knowing what to watch, and then explain what should or should not be happening (i.e., developing an eye for movement).

One of the objectives of this course is to integrate theory and movement, therefore classes are not broken down into separate lecture periods and lab periods as might normally be expected. An active learning environment is encouraged. The class will meet 4 hours per week. Students are expected to spend time outside of class on assigned projects. Where possible, studio time will be made available accordingly.

Topics

Your Role as Designer

- Discovering new movement ideas – playing and problem - solving using movement, where to start the process, finding the balance between discipline and intuition
- The elements: Space / Time / Motion (Effort) / Shape

- Locomotor and axial movements
- Essential components
- Guidelines and goals
- Accessory components
 - o Spatial dimensions
 - o Qualitative considerations
 - o Rhythmic interest
- Use of accompaniment
 - o Counting
 - o Music
- The instructional space
 - o Possibilities and limitations
 - o Use of equipment
 - o Use of mirrors

Your Role as Instructor

- Instructional skills
 - o Giving instructions
 - o Observing
 - o Giving feedback

Building Additional Participant Skills

- Posture, placement, centre, alignment, balance
- Right and left training
- Movement memory and confidence
- Increasing range of motion
- Working towards efficient movement

Programs and Populations

- How are movement combinations, patterns, and sequences are used
- Who is the owner of a pattern
- Potential clients – ages, activities, situations

Evaluation

Evaluation

50% - Class work and related assignments

20% - Movement project (duet/trio): This project is designed to facilitate the development of an interactive, original movement pattern.

30% - Final design and presentation of movement combination, pattern, or sequence. This will include a written assignment defining the challenges, compositional components and any additional information.

Dress

Students should be prepared to work in bare feet, wear layers of soft clothing such as leotards, footless tights, sweatpants, leg warmers, etc.

Course Timetable

January 9 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin movement pattern building; class work will focus on constructing compositional sequences
February 6 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline and assign specific concepts to be included in duet/trio movement projects
February 19 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Week: No Class
March 12 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duet/trio presentations
April 2 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Pattern Presentations

Suggested Reading

Humphrey, Doris. *The Art of Making Dances*. Princeton Book Company, 1987.

Pomer, Janice. *Dance Composition: An Interrelated Arts Approach*. Human Kinetics, 2009.

Schrader, Constance. *A Sense of Dance*. Human Kinetics, 2005.

Sofras, Pamela Anderson. *Dance Composition Basics*. Human Kinetics, 2006.

Attendance

Because of the nature of the course material, students are required to attend all classes. The acceptable expectations will be illness that legitimately prevents attendance, or a personal crisis. The events must be proved with documentation. On days when not feeling up to physical participation, students should attend class where they will be given an observation assignment.

Important information to consider:

Students must turn their cell phones off during class. No pictures or videos can be taken without permission of the instructor and participant(s).

Instructor's policy on attendance and late assignments: If you are unable to attend a class, please make every effort to let the instructor know in advance by email (preferably). Full attendance at all classes is expected and medical documentation is required unless you have the instructor's

permission to be absent. Unexplained absences will result in a reduction in your participation grade. Students with medical documentation or an acceptable excuse for an absence will not be penalized. Late written assignments will only be accepted and graded if permission has been granted by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

Important Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites: Special Permission.** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

*Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Additional applicable statements

i) This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”

ii) **Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

iii) **Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

iv) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

v) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).