

DANC 2010 DANCE APPRECIATION

Fall '06

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Included in this document are:

1. Syllabus 2. Specifications for thesis paper assignment 3. Specifications for dance critique 4. Course calendar 5. Listing of concerts to critiquing

OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE

All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm> The instructor of this course (Mark Wheeler) treats the matter of academic honesty very seriously.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to aspects of dance as cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic expression, exploring origins and the related roles of the dancer, choreographer, and spectator. Historical and critical readings, video-illustrated lectures by the instructor, and participation in dance experiences during class-time will acquaint the student with masterpieces of dance theater art and develop the student's responsiveness to dance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide to the student an opportunity to view dance from anthropological, psychological, sociological, and aesthetic points of view.

To provide experiences which will assist students in understanding the kinesthetic, physical, artistic, spiritual, and compositional aspects of dance.

To provide to the student an overview of serious concert dance and the criteria and knowledge needed to form an educated critique.

To provide an understanding of dance as a form of recreation and a source of entertainment.

REQUIRED TEXT

Jonas, Gerald. *Dancing: The Pleasure, Power and Art of Movement*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, in association with Thirteen/WNET, 1992.

STUDY GUIDES

A study guide for each of the four test units is available in the course packet which can be purchased at Bel-Jean Copy Center, 163 E. Broad St., just across Broad and a few steps west of the UGA Arch. The packet contains Study Guides 1,2,3, and 4; the ten functions of dance in society; and examples of writing errors gleaned from papers of former students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING VALUES

80% of grade - Four tests @ 20% each: Thurs. Sept. 7, Tues. Oct. 10, Tues. Nov. 14, Tues. Dec. 12 (3rd day of Final Exams): 3:30-6:30 p.m. There is no comprehensive final exam, even though Test 4 is given during Finals Week)

10% of grade - One 575-650 word paper supporting a thesis. Paper abstract (100-120 words) due Tues. Sept. 26. Full thesis paper due Thurs. Nov. 2. Grading based upon content and quality of writing. Count all words, including "a," "it," and "an." Should be written in third person (no "I," "me," "you," etc). Typed, double-spaced.

6.7% of grade - One 260-280 word critique of one of the dance concerts to be performed this semester on campus or nearby. Later in the syllabus see concert schedule and specifications for the critique. The critique will be accepted in class ten-fourteen days after the event, as specified in a calendar to be provided.

3.3% of grade - Consists of: 1. Daily contributions to scholarly dialogue in the class, spoken and unspoken. (Nothing fancy here; the point is, are you a participating member of this community? The instructor has some part of the grade (3.3%) to motivate each student to be a member. More than five absences detracts from the community and such absence will be reflected in the final grade. Since the movement sessions are important for dance appreciation, a student missing two movement sessions will be given a mandatory assignment which must be completed satisfactorily for the student to receive credit in the course. 2. Proof of attending one concert in addition to the concert being critiqued (ticket stub stapled to an 8.5 in. X 11 in. piece of paper, with student name affixed). Is Academic Honesty part of who you are, or are you a cheat? Dates and locations of concerts announced later in the syllabus.

All work will be assigned a numerical value. Final grade for the course will be based on A = 90-100, B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. Failure to take an exam or hand-in one of the written assignments will result in grade of 0 for that assignment.

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE FOUR TESTS

Test I. Jonas, Chapters 1, 2

Test III. Jonas, Chapter 7

Test II. Jonas, Chapters 3, 5

Test IV. Jonas, Chapters 4, 6, 8

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The course meets for seventy-five minutes for thirty class meetings. Attendance will be taken each day. Missing class is discouraged. Missing more than five classes will be reflected in the final grade. Tardiness must be avoided. Chronically late students will be advised to drop the course.

THESIS PAPER ASSIGNMENT

1. 10% of grade - One 575-650 word paper supporting a thesis. Thesis paper abstract (100-120 words) due Sept. 26. Full thesis paper due Thurs. Nov. 3. Grading based upon content and quality of writing. Both the abstract of the thesis paper and the thesis paper must be typed, double-spaced.. Word count includes all words: "a," "an," etc.

2. The paper must support the following thesis: Dance, in its many aspects, has much to offer individuals living in the early years of the twenty-first century. The task of supporting the thesis will include identifying at least three needs of contemporary society and linking those needs to specific dance activities which hold potential for meeting the needs identified. The ten functions of dance in society learned for Test 1 will assist the student in identifying societal needs/problems and dance's potential contributions toward solutions. Only those three functions which the writer chooses to relate to contemporary needs of society should be discussed. Since the paper is not about all ten functions, a paper containing a "filler list" of all ten functions will be heavily "graded down."

3. The paper must include a statement of the thesis in the opening paragraph and another statement of the thesis in the closing paragraph. Paragraphs in-between the opening and closing paragraphs should discuss societal needs and should discuss instances of dance having a positive impact upon society.

4. The 100-120 word abstract is a one-paragraph version of the entire paper. The organization of the paper (addressed specifically in 3. above) should be reflected in the organization of the one- paragraph abstract.

CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT

Value = 6.7% of grade. A 260-280 word critique of a dance performance or lecture demonstration held on campus. The critique must be typed, double-spaced. Word count includes all words: "a," "an," etc. A critique of a one of a few dance events in the Atlanta area will be accepted if the student - prior to the event - seeks and receives the teacher's approval. The critique is due ten-fourteen days after the event.

The critique: should have no fewer than two and no more than four paragraphs
should be written in third person
should have a first paragraph stating:

- the name of the event
- the name of the dance company or dance artist featured in the event
- the day, time, location of the event
- should identify the event as a concert or as a lecture-demonstration or as
- should italicize or underline the titles of full evening works - ex. *The Nutcracker*
- should place quotation marks around the titles of shorter works - ex. "Day on Earth"
- should identify the choreographer of dance pieces or of excerpts of pieces seen in the event
- should include some facts about the event - ex. The opening piece, entitled "Rites of Passage," had been choreographed to the music of Charles Ives.
- should include some of the writer's opinions about aspects of the event – ex. - Though the music of Bach which accompanied the second section of the piece is generally quite soothing, the movements which the seven dancers performed during the section were quite alarming. While the choreographer might have had a particular motive for this juxtaposition, this audience member found the section artistically unsuccessful.
- should have no "word padding," such as unreasonably long listings of dancers' or choreographers' names.
- should end with style

COURSE CALENDAR

- Wednesday, August 16 - UGA classes begin
- Thursday, August 17 - first class meeting
- Thursday, August 29 - movement session in Dance Building, Studio 276
- Thursday, September 7 - Test 1
- Tuesday, September 26 - abstract of thesis paper due
- Tuesday, October 10 - Test 2
- Tuesday, October 31 - movement session in Dance Building, Studio 276
- Thursday, October 26 (and Friday the 27th) - Fall Break
- Thursday, November 2 - thesis paper due
- Tuesday, November 14 - Test 3
- Tuesday, November 28 - movement session in Dance Building, Studio 276
- Wednesday, December 6 – last day of Fall Semester classes
- Tuesday, December 12 (3rd day of UGA Finals) - Test 4

CONCERTS FOR POSSIBLE CRITIQUE (an ongoing list)

- September 24 (Sunday) 3 pm. The Atlanta Ballet presents a repertory concert. Fine Arts Theatre, UGA, Lumpkin and Baldwin Streets. Tickets for students with valid ID \$14.50, \$17.00 (this is half-price of what others will pay – the semi-annual performance here invariably sells out) 706-542-4400 for info and box office.

October 12-15 (Thurs. – Sat. at 8 pm; Sat. and Sun. at 2 pm) Jose Limon Dance Company, Schwartz Arts Center, Dance Studio, Emory University, Decatur. \$20

October 26-29 Atlanta Ballet performs *Giselle* at the Fox Theatre, corner of Peachtree and Ponce de Leon, Atlanta. Tickets online at www.atlantaballet.com or at the door, if not sold out. Performances as follows:
Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 7:30 pm
Friday, October 27, 2006 at 8:00 pm
Saturday, October 28, 2006 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm
Sunday, October 29, 2006 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

November 6, 7 (Monday, Tuesday) Stage One Showing, Department of Dance, New Dance Theatre, Time TBA

November 11 (Saturday) DanceAthens at the Morton Theatre, Downtown Athens, 7:30, For information call Dancefx Inc. at 706 355-3078

November 14 (Tuesday) Alvin Ailey II at the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center in Madison, GA (706) 342-4743 7:30 pm

November 16-18 (Thursday-Saturday) Young Choreographer's Series – Senior/Junior Concert, Department of Dance, New Dance Theatre, 8:00 pm

No critiques will be accepted after November 28.