

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: DA 2121 Dance Improvisation and Choreography**

**US Credits: 3/0/3**

(Updated Spring 2023)

**PREREQUISITES:**

DA 2050 Contemporary Dance I or  
DA 2018 LE Body Awareness and Movement or  
by coordinator's permission

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to dance improvisation and choreography; methods to generate movement material; creation of short performance scores; exploration of solo forms.

**RATIONALE:**

The students will have the opportunity to explore their creative abilities, as they will be introduced to the process of dance improvisation and choreography. They will be encouraged to use a variety of sources to develop ideas for dance including visual, textual and aural stimuli as they become familiar with methods of generating, composing and structuring movement.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Develop perceptive skills to respond to a fluid environment, in order to sustain improvisational systems.
  2. Demonstrate an understanding of how improvisation supports creative processes including the use of scores
  3. Experiment with a range of stimuli as source for choreography.
  4. Plan and elaborate a choreographic process

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Tutor led workshops attending to both individual and group instruction.
- Preparing studies for feedback and discussion.
- Rehearsing during and outside class hours.
- Individual portfolio documenting individual research throughout the course.
- Viewing of dance works as a means to develop observational and analytical skills necessary to the creative process.
- Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements, and other resources.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can be consulted as to their research paper, assignments, or any other element of the course.
- Library: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their assignments

**ASSESSMENT:**

Summative:

1 <sup>st</sup> Assessment – Performance Score	<b>30%</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assessment – Portfolio of Research	<b>30%</b>
Final Assessment - Solo Creation	<b>40%</b>

Formative:

Preparation and participation	<b>0</b>
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The formative “preparation and participation students for the examination. The “1<sup>st</sup> Assessment-Performance Score” tests LOs 1,2

	<p>The “2<sup>nd</sup> Assessment-Portfolio of Research” tests LOs 2-4  The “Final Assessment-Solo Creation” tests LOs 3,4</p> <p><i>The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative (major) assessment grades, based on predetermined weights for each assessment. If the average grade is 40 and above, students pass the module. No resits for non-validated modules</i></p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE READING:</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b></p> <p>Selected Chapters from:</p> <p>Burrows, Jonathan. <i>A Choreographer's Handbook</i>, Taylor &amp; Francis Group. Latest edition</p> <p>Preston-Dunlop, Valerie. <i>Looking at Dances. A Choreological Perspective on Choreography</i>. UK, Noverre Press. Latest edition</p> <p>Cooper Albright Ann, David Gere, eds. <i>Taken by Surprise: a Dance Improvisation Reader</i>. Hanover, N.H. Wesleyan University Press. Latest edition</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b></p> <p>Cooper-Albright, Ann. <i>Engaging Bodies: The Politics and Poetics of Corporeality</i>, Wesleyan University Press. Latest edition</p> <p>Buckwalter, Melinda. <i>Composing While Dancing : An Improviser's Companion</i>, University of Wisconsin Press. Latest edition</p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b>  (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p>Material available through Blackboard.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Use of proper English for all written and oral assignments.</p>
<p><b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>MSoftware, Blackboard CMS.</p>
<p><b>WWW RESOURCES:</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.contemporary-dance.org/">https://www.contemporary-dance.org/</a></p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Body awareness, the senses as a creative mechanism.</li> <li>2. Exploration of the elements of movement</li> <li>3. Rule-based improvisation and creation of scores</li> <li>4. Case studies of choreographers and their work.</li> <li>5. Visual, textual, aural stimuli as a source for improvising and structuring movement</li> <li>6. Devices for generating movement material through an understanding of choreographic ‘tasks’.</li> </ol>