

Dance: Cultures and Contexts

Dance 7V
Winter, 2015

Professor: Jacqueline Shea Murphy jshea@ucr.edu

Office hours: Office hours by appointment, via Skype (jsheamurphy) or Canvas Conference. Please email to make an appointment. I will generally respond to email within 24 hours during the work week.

Teaching Assistants:

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In addition to regular online discussion sessions, TAs will also hold “chat” and/or video Skype (or other similar video-based) office hours during which you can contact them with questions. Please email your TA to make an appointment.

Course Description:

This class introduces students to the study of dance as an academic subject. You will hone your skills in thinking, talking, and writing about how meaning is made in dance. For example, we will look at dance as a location of knowledge and history, an activity that creates meaning and identity, a mode of perceptual inquiry, and an embodied form of communication. Because the subject of dance is vast, this introductory class will limit its study, following an introductory module, to three main topics: hula; the interrelated forms of tap and hip-hop dance; and “contemporary” dance. The course will provide historical and cultural context for these dance practices, provoke informed and insightful discussion and debates, as well as, develop your ability to articulate your understandings of them. In exploring these dance practices, we’ll look at the dance movement itself, at the dance’s history, and at the contexts and situations in which the dances happen, including who watches them, who participates in them, who promotes and profits from them, and the expectations, understandings, and desires that these dancers, audiences, and patrons bring to the dances they engage with. Dance 7V is an ideal course for students interested in discovering how dance is studied at the university level.

Learning Outcomes:

By completing the activities in this course you will gain the following:

- **KNOWLEDGE:** Be able to identify, describe, and recall central characteristics of dance forms including Cahuilla bird singing, hula, tap, hip-hop, and contemporary dance, with attention to each form’s: movement characteristics; history; narrative or intention; and the contexts and situations in which it occurs.
- **SKILLS:**
 - Have honed your writing skills, viewing skills, discussion skills, creative and critical/analytical thinking skills, and – via group work -- collaborative online working skills.
 - Be able to think and write about these dance practices’ histories and current global circulations, and to address issues of race, gender, sexuality, colonization, appropriation, commodification, resilience, and empowerment that relate to these histories.

■ VALUES:

- Have developed new and increasingly nuanced understandings of how dance – as it circulates live and on screen -participates in cultural meaning making.
- Have developed continually evolving ways of thinking about the many dance practices you'll encounter throughout your life.

Course requirements:

- **Participation:** You are expected to engage actively and attentively with required readings, posted videos, and posted lectures, and to participate in group Wiki assignments and discussion sections.
- **Weekly Graded Discussion Questions:** You are required to complete a weekly set of questions (true/false, multiple choice, and short answer) that will check your understanding of the course material. This work will be useful in preparing for discussion sections, module midterms and the course's final exam. **This assignment is due every Thursday by 5 p.m.**
- **TA moderated online discussion section:** You are required to participate in weekly 50-minute online discussion sections moderated by a TA. You should be prepared to discuss the questions posed in that week's Graded Discussion Questions, and can also use the time to ask questions of your TA and your fellow students. The level and quality of your participation in these discussions, evaluated by your TA, will comprise a central part of your class participation grade.
- **Group Wiki:** You will be sorted into study groups of 4 or 5 people, and will be required to post assignments to a Wiki page, and to work together to develop, edit and publish two Group Wiki pages during the course. The quality of your Group Wiki will be graded by your TA, but you will also be required to each submit an individual evaluation of the group's work. **This assignment is due every Monday by 9 p.m.**
- **Module midterms:** The first three course modules (including an introductory module) will conclude with a timed, open-book, "module midterm," taken online during a set time period. They will include both multiple-choice and short-answer questions. (The last module's midterm will be incorporated into the final exam.) Module midterms are designed to prompt and assess your careful reading/viewing and comprehension of the materials presented during the module, and your ability to respond intelligently to issues the module raised.
- **Final:** The final exam, which will be comprehensive and will include both short essay questions and identifications, is to be taken online through a proctored online test facility, ProctorU. You can schedule the exam from any location, and during any 3-hour period, **starting March 16 and ending March 18.** Additional information about ProctorU is on the course site. Payment of fees charged by the facility is the student's responsibility. **Cost is \$33.75.**
- **Dance practice ePortfolio:** This class requires that you dance for at least 30 minutes each week. You will create an ePortfolio providing commentary about your weekly dance practice experiences, and linking your dancing to class material. Once in the term, you will instead write an entry about a dance concert you attend. **Your weekly posting to your ePortfolio is due each Monday night at 9 p.m. starting Jan. 12th. It will be checked weekly and graded at the end of the term. Completed Dance Practice ePortfolio is due Monday, March 9.**

- For 7 of the 9 required entries, your dancing can be private -- to the radio in your bedroom with no one watching, in your living room to a dance game like Just Dance 4, etc.
 - At least once (more is fine), you should **participate publicly** as a dancer: you could go out dancing (i.e. at a party, nightclub, wedding, quinceañera etc.) or take one dance class or lesson (i.e. a ballroom, hip hop, belly dance, modern or Zumba class you locate at a studio or fitness club near you), or participate as a dancer in a dance concert, event, or competition.
 - One week (your choice), your response must be to **a dance performance you see live, as an audience member**. Please plan early to attend a dance concert or event during the quarter; suggestions will be posted on the course site, but it is your responsibility to locate a dance concert and arrange to attend it. **THIS ENTRY WILL COUNT DOUBLE in your ePortfolio grade.**
 - Refer to the “Four Guidelines for Dance Analysis” to describe the dancing you do and the dancing you see.
- **Extra credit response:** In addition to the response to a live dance event that is due as part of your ePortfolio, you may submit one additional response (also based on the Four Guidelines for Dance Analysis, to a dance event you see live) for extra credit.

Required Texts and Fees:

- Joseph G. Schloss, *Foundation: b-boys, b-girls, and hip hop culture in New York* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010). You **must purchase this book** on your own—it is available at the UCR bookstore, as well as at amazon.com and many other sites. You could also order it from a bookstore local to you.
- All other readings are **posted on the class site**.
- Most required viewing is **posted on the class site**. You will need to **watch two full-length films**: *Singin' in the Rain*, and *The Freshest Kids*. These are available at the UCR Media library, but you may instead wish to rent or stream them through a service like Hulu, Netflix, or iTunes, or rent them from a video store near you. You should watch these during the first two weeks of class.
- Final exam online proctoring: **Cost is \$33.75. PLEASE NOTE THIS PROCTORING COST, AND BE PREPARED TO PAY IT BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM.**

Required Technology:

Access to a computer that meets these minimum requirements:

- a newer computer (sometime in the last 2-3 years is best). Please note: a Tablet (iPad, etc.) may NOT enable you to access all course material, or to take all exams. You must have access to a computer.
- Windows XP SPE and newer for a PC and Mac OSX 10.6 or later for a Mac. Linux - chromeOS. Note: The Chrome browser is currently not working very well with Adobe Connect, the program used to host the weekly TA-led discussion. Please use one of the others for your discussion sections.
- a web camera (built-in is best, but external is okay) and a microphone (a headset with a microphone is preferred over the built-in microphone)
- a headset (the ones that come with iPhones, etc. are okay, but a headset with a microphone is much better) note: if your computer doesn't have a camera and

microphone, you can purchase an inexpensive webcam and a headset with a microphone.

- high-speed internet access through an Ethernet cable (NOT just Wifi) for discussion sections. You will have trouble staying connected and/or being able to share in your discussion sections if you use wireless for the discussion sections.
- the following software installed: Adobe Reader and a Flash video player.
- a Skype account, in case a conversation with the instructor or TAs is required, or to attend video office hours.

Course and Technical Support

- If you need help with **Course Content** (e.g. additional questions about your assignments, due dates, or any other course content) please contact your TA or Professor Shea Murphy.
- If you need help with the **Course Website** (e.g., trouble logging into classes, trouble viewing course content or tools), then click on "Help" in the upper-right-hand corner (next to "Logout") and select "Report a Problem" from the menu. Enter a short title in the Subject field and then describe your problem in as much detail as possible. In the drop-down menu, select the situation that corresponds to how this problem is affecting you. Then click on "Submit Ticket" to send it to UC Online's Technical Team for resolution.
- If you are having temporary **Computer Problems**, you may contact the UCR helpdesk (<http://cnc.ucr.edu/scs/scshelpdesk.html>) whose number is (951) 827-6495.

Course policies:

- All assignments will be assigned and turned in online through the course site. Announcements and discussion posts, made by the teachers or other students, are required reading in the course.
- Students are expected to be familiar with UCR's policy on Academic Integrity. See <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnpolicies/academicintegrity.html>

Detected cases of academic dishonesty are pursued aggressively. Copying text or ideas from any source (current students, past students, articles, books, web, etc.) without proper citation is not allowed.

Grading:

4 unit course with 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion, as follows:

Weekly Dance Practice ePortfolio **10%**
(note: 1% for each entry except performance response entry worth 2%)

Module Midterms **18%**
Module Midterm #1 5%
Module Midterm #2 5%
Module Midterm #3 8%

Group Wikis **10%**
Intro Wiki 2%
Final Course Wiki 8%

Discussion/Participation	32%
Weekly Graded Discussion Questions	16%
Discussion section participation	16%
Final Exam	30%
Extra Credit response paper (1 allowed)	2%

Dance: Cultures and Contexts Course Schedule

Module 1 (Weeks 1, 2 and 3) Introduction

WEEK 1

Watch Lessons 1 & 2: Introduction
Dance on Screen

Thursday, Jan. 8

Intro Wiki Work #1: Warm-up exercise: post your Profile Bio and Picture to course site (go to the top right of navigation bar and click on your name). Due 9 p.m.
Complete the “Self-Check: Are You Ready?” questionnaire.

Week 1 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Weekend homework: Watch either *Singin’ in the Rain* or *The Freshest Kids* (preparation for later in the course).

Friday, Jan. 9

Attend your online discussion section

WEEK 2:

Watch Lessons 3 & 4: Meaning in Movement 1
Meaning in Movement 2

Monday, Jan. 12

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #1 (Due 9 pm)

Wiki Work #2: Sign up on Canvas for your Wiki Group by 9 pm.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Week 2 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16

Attend your online discussion section

WEEK 3:

Watch Lesson 5: Cahuilla Bird Singing

Monday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 20

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #2 (Due 9 pm)

Intro Wiki work #3: Group warm-up exercise: find your group’s Canvas Wiki site. Create a page on your Wiki site onto which one group member will copy the “Getting to Know You” questions; then answer them! Create a group name for your Group. Design your page visually. Set up a Google Hang-Out or Skype session, and meet each other online. Optional: invite your TA to a group meeting or discussion. **(Due 9 pm)**

Thursday Jan. 22
Friday, Jan. 23

Week 3 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.
Attend your online discussion section

Fri Jan. 23 (2 pm) –
Sun Jan. 25 (10 pm)

Module midterm 1

Module 2 (Weeks 4 and 5): Hula

WEEK 4:

Watch Lessons 6 & 7: Hula intro; Hula history 1

Monday, Jan. 26

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #3 (Due 9 pm)

Intro Wiki work #4: Using the communication method your Group agreed upon, interview each other about the three most interesting things you've learned in this class so far. Then each write two paragraphs about one other group member. In the first paragraph, introduce this person (drawing on their "getting to know you" answers and the Course profile they posted). In the second, describe the three things this person learned in class (drawing on the interviews your group did). Each group member should post their 2 paragraphs to the group Wiki, and include a photo or other illustration depicting the group member they are writing about. Make sure that each person in your group is represented. **(Due 9 pm)**

Thursday, Jan. 29

Week 4 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30

Attend your online discussion section

WEEK 5:

Watch Lessons 8 & 9: Hula history 2, Hula Today

Monday, Feb. 2

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #4 (Due 9 pm)

Intro Wiki work #5: Publish your Intro Wiki: Choose roles for finalizing your wiki; correct all errors, fine tune the look of your wiki (design the site to introduce your group -- make it look nice!) and publish. **FINAL INTRO WIKI (Due 9 pm)**

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Group Evaluation #1 (Due 9 pm)

Thursday, Feb. 5

Week 5 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb.6

Attend your online discussion section

Fri Feb. 6 (2pm) –

Sun Feb. 8 (10 pm)

Module Midterm 2

Module 3 (Weeks 6, 7 and 8) Tap and Hip Hop

WEEK 6

Watch Lessons 10 & 11: Intro to Tap,
Tap Dance in Historical Context: Minstrelsy to Broadway.

Monday, Feb. 9

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #5 (Due 9 pm)
Final Course Wiki Work #1: see assignment on Canvas (Due 9 pm)

Thursday, Feb. 12

Week 6 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Attend your online discussion section

WEEK 7

Watch Lessons 12 & 13: The Hollywood Musical and the Racial
Politics of Theft; Hip Hop: Intro to Bboying and B-Boy Aesthetics

Monday, Feb. 16

pm)

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #6 (Due 9 pm)
Final Course Wiki Work #2: See assignment on Canvas (Due 9 pm)

Thursday, Feb. 19

Week 6 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20

Attend your online discussion section

WEEK 8

Watch Lessons 14 & 15: B-boy Tensions: Recognition, Gender,
Global Circulations
Hip hop: Waacking
Recommended: Choreo hip hop, with guest speakers Darnell
Carroll and Mario Ponce.

Monday, Feb. 23

ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #7 (Due 9 pm)
Final Wiki Work #3: See assignment on Canvas (Due 9 pm)

Thursday Feb. 26

Week 8 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27

Attend your online discussion section

**Friday Feb. 27 (2 pm) –
Sunday March 1 (10 pm)**

Module Midterm 3

Module 4 (Weeks 9 and 10) Contemporary Dance, Wrap Up

- WEEK 9:** Watch Lessons 16 & 17: Modern dance early history and Modern/postmodern dance Contemporary Dance
- Monday, March 2** ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #8 (Due 9 pm)
Final Wiki Work #4: Publish your Final Wiki (Due 9 pm)
- Tuesday, March 3:** Wiki Group Evaluation #2 (Due 9 pm)
- Thursday, March 5** Week 9 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.
- Friday, March 6** Attend your online discussion section
- WEEK 10:** Watch Lesson 18: Contemporary dance guest speaker Wendy Rogers
- Review Course Wikis (Course Wikis made open to class on Thursday, March 5).
- Monday, March 9** ePortfolio Dance Practice Entry #9 (Final) (Due 9 pm)
- Thursday, March 12** Week 10 Graded Discussion Questions: Due 5 p.m.
- Friday, March 13** Attend your online discussion section

FINAL EXAM – ONLINE PROCTORED EXAM: You will choose a 3-hour time period in which to take exam, starting Monday, March 16, 9 a.m., and ending Thursday, March 19, midnight.

The cost for this service is \$33.95