DANCE (DANC)

DANC103 Dancing Bodies
This course introduces students to basic dance literacy by viewing dances on film and video, making movement studies, and practicing writing in different modes about bodies in motion. The utopian ideal of "the natural" dancing body will guide our investigation of dance as art and culture, from Isadora Duncan to the postmoderns. We seek answers to such questions as, What do performance codes about the natural body feel and look like? How do dance traditions preserve, transmit, and reconfigure eco-utopian desires? No dance experience is necessary. The desire and confidence to create and move collaboratively with others is expected.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC104F Introduction to Contemporary Dance from Global Perspectives (FYS)
This interdisciplinary course aims to understand contemporary dance and the moving body from global perspectives. It draws from a range of approaches to aesthetics and choreography, politics, and understandings of culture-at-large. It examines an eclectic array of movement and choreographic styles from North America to Europe to Asia.

The course is divided into 6 units:

1. Old and New Definitions of Contemporary Dance
2. "East Meets West" -- Global-Cultural Flows in Contemporary Dance
3. Social Justice and Contemporary Dance
4. Queering Contemporary Dance
5. Special Topics -- Stillness and Silence
6. Traditional Dance/Contemporary Dance -- Deconstruction and Reconstruction

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC105 Dance Tech Lab: Lights, Screen, Projection
This class includes the practicum and experimentation of lighting design and production with use of projection, video-screen technology, stage management, costume and set design.

The practical experience in the Dance Department's production season is emphasized in the course.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC107 Writing Is Dancing, Dancing Is Writing
We watch dance and then we write about it. Dance needs writing to be understood and to endure. Or maybe not. Maybe dance needs no help. Then, what do we write? Writing as dance, in dance, of, from, alongside... As readers, writers, and performers, we will explore established and experimental modes of writing and choreography and look for ways that each form can stretch and challenge the other.
Offering: Host

Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC111 Introduction to Dance
This is an introduction to dance as an educational, technical, and creative discipline for students with no previous formal dance training. Classes will introduce the basic components of dance technique—stretching, strengthening, aligning the body, and developing coordination in the execution of rhythmic movement patterns. Through improvisation, composition, and performing, students will develop a solid framework applicable to all forms of dance.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC202 Ballet I
This is an elementary level ballet class. Ballet terminology and stylistic concepts will be introduced with emphasis on correct alignment, musicality, and movement flow.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC205 Dances of the Orixás
The gods of the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé religion are called Orixás. Dance, drums and song are the basic elements in its religious ceremonies. Dance is a nexus between Africa and Brazil. It holds ancestral knowledge and demonstrates a clear evolution of form, function, and tradition. This course will examine the study of embodied practices of the African diaspora as it relates to Brazilian life and culture. It will introduce various religious, social, and contemporary dance forms through a historical perspective of African identity in Brazil. Students will dive into the vibrant Afro-Brazilian culture and history through rigorous physical explorations, which will be complemented with lectures, readings, discussions, and video. Topics will include, yet are not limited to: the symbolic aspects of the body, historical context of movement behavior, the sociopolitical aspects of the dances, the derivation of the movement techniques, as well as connection of mind, body, and spirit in culture and dance.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC211 Contemporary Dance Technique I
This elementary contemporary dance technique class is above the introductory level with an emphasis on anatomically sound and efficient movement. Studio work, readings, and homework assignments focus on experiential anatomy and the development of strength, endurance, joint mobility, and technical skills necessary for working in dance technique, improvisation, and choreography.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC212 Composition Across the Arts
Grounded in embodied art-making practices, this survey course will introduce students to art-making processes in dance, performance, creative writing, and sound. Connections will be explored amongst the disciplines and students will be encouraged to discover their own unique and hybrid forms. The class will
be facilitated by Nicole Stanton with modules taught by resident and visiting artists from across the arts. The first part of the semester will focus on hands-on experimentation, contextual readings, viewings, and discussion. In the second part of the semester, students will create their own creative projects, participate in in-depth critique sessions, and develop a digital portfolio to document their work. The course will culminate in public exhibitions and performances of the student's creative projects. This course can serve as the gateway to the Dance Major.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: THEA212
Prereq: None

DANC213 Jazz Technique
This course is an introduction to the African American jazz dance vernacular through the embodied practice of Simonson jazz. It will cover basic principles of alignment, centering, and technique through the context of jazz's African roots. Class sessions will principally consist of movement exploration including a comprehensive warm-up and will be supplemented by online discussions and media to better understand the place of jazz dance in society and culture at large.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: AFAM262
Prereq: None

DANC215 Modern Dance II
This intermediate modern dance class will focus on moving with technical precision, projection of energy, dynamic variation, and proper alignment. Emphasis will be placed on learning movement quickly and developing awareness of space, time, and energy.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC220 Performing Indonesia
This course will examine the theater, dance, and puppetry of Indonesia in the context of its cultural significance in Indonesia and in the West. Students will read a variety of texts related to Indonesian history, myth, and religion. Students will also read books and essays by anthropologists Hildred Geertz, Clifford Geertz, and Margaret Mead to understand how the arts are integrated into the overall life of the island archipelago. Artifacts of physical culture will also be examined, including the palm-leaf manuscripts that are quoted in many performances; the paintings that depict the relationship between humans, nature, and the spirit world that are the subject of many plays; and the masks and puppets that often serve as a medium for contacting the invisible world of the gods and ancestors. Translations of Indonesian texts will be analyzed and adapted for performance. The direct and indirect influence of Indonesian performance and history on the West will be discussed by examining the work of theater artists such as Robert Wilson, Arianne Mnouchkine, Lee Breur, and Julie Taymou, who have all collaborated with Balinese performers.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS229
Prereq: None

DANC231 Performing Arts Videography
This course provides an introduction to shooting and editing video and sound with a particular focus on the documentation of dance, music, and theater performance. Additional consideration will be given to the integration of videographic elements into such performances. Students will work in teams to document on-campus performances occurring concurrently. Related issues in ethnographic and documentary film will be explored through viewing and discussion of works such as Wim Wenders’s Pina, Elliot Caplan’s Cage/Cunningham, John Cohen’s The High Lonesome Sound, and Peter Greenaway’s Four American Composers.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC231, THEA213
Prereq: None

DANC237 Performance Art
This course can be understood as an ephemeral, time-based art, typically centered on an action or artistic gesture that has a beginning and an end, carried out or created by an artist. It also contains the elements of space, time, and body. This hands-on course explores the history and aesthetics of performance art and how it relates to the performing arts (dance and theater). In a project-based format, students conduct performance assignments and conceptual research within the gaps that exist between performative arts. The course focuses on analyzing and studying artists who used the concepts of chance, failure, or appropriation in their work.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA237
Prereq: None

DANC244 Delicious Movement: Time Is Not Even, Space Is Not Empty
This course contemplates metaphorical nakedness and human and bodily experiences of time and space through interdisciplinary discourse. Taught by NYC-based artist Eiko Otake of Eiko & Koma, students will examine how being or becoming a mover reflects and alters each person’s relationships with the environment, with history, and with other beings. Topics of study and discussion include Eiko & Koma’s body of works, atomic bomb literature, postwar Japan, and environmental violence such as Fukushima nuclear explosions. Aeky concept of study will be metaphorical nakedness and how distance is malleable.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS244
Prereq: None

DANC249 Making Dances I: Solo Work
This course is a practical lab in body-based performance making with a focus on the solo form. Students will work towards developing and honing their personal artistic interests and goals, and supporting those of their peers. We will experiment with various modes of composition, viewing and researching a broad range of artistic work and ideas, expanding our notions of what constitutes a dance. Students will explore performance in public space, collaboration, and work across artistic disciplines, engagement with technology, awareness of cultural context and appropriation, and social practice/participatory/community engaged art. Finally, we will develop methods for peer critique, working towards finding a challenging and supportive approach that pushes each artist forward.

NOTE: This is a laboratory course for students interested in diving deeply into body-based artistic practice. It is appropriate to students with a background in
any artistic discipline. An interest in rigorous (and playful) experimentation and research is key.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC250 Dance Composition: Choreography Workshop
This course in creating and performing choreography emphasizes the diversity of techniques, methods, and aesthetic approaches available to the choreographer. Assignments will revolve around inventing, organizing, and evaluating movement styles and on solving composition tasks that are drawn from various art mediums.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC251 Javanese Dance I
Instruction in the classical dance of central Java will begin with the basic movement vocabulary and proceed to the study of dance repertoires. At the end of the semester, an informal recital will be arranged with the accompaniment of live gamelan music. Emphasis is on both the male and the female style.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC260 West African Dance I
West African dance is a gateway to the cultures and ways of life of its people. It is the medium on which the very existence of the people is reinforced and celebrated. In this introductory course, students will learn the fundamental principles and aesthetics of West African dance through learning to embody basic movement vocabulary and selected traditional dances from Ghana. The physical embodiment of these cultures will be complemented with videos, lectures, readings, and discussions to give students an in-depth perspective on the people and cultures of Ghana. Students will also learn dances from other West Africa countries periodically.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC261 Bharata Natyam I: Introduction of South Indian Classical Dance
This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental aesthetic, social, and technical principles underscoring the culture of Bharata Natyam dance in its both indigenous and modern contexts. The course introduces students to Bharata Natyam largely through classroom practice (in the form of rhythmic and interpretive exercises), supplemented by brief lectures outlining the sociohistorical and cultural contexts of the form. Class lectures will also include video presentations. Occasionally, the class could include a guest lecture given by either a visiting scholar, dancer, or choreographer respected in the field of South Asian dance internationally.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None
DANC309 Modern Dance III
This advanced-level class draws on multiple approaches to dance technique and the moving body. Some of these include modern dance techniques, contemporary/release techniques, contact and other improvisational forms, as well as somatic practices. Modern III focuses on the exploration of complex dance movement sequences, cultivating specific and personal engagement with movement material, along with heightened attention to the subtleties of phrasing, initiation, and musicality. The course's primary aim is each individual's continued development as a strong, well-rounded, creative, and thoughtful dancer.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: DANC215

DANC311 Immersive Theater: Experimental Design, Material Culture and Audience-Centered Performance
This course offers a comprehensive exploration of Third Rail Projects' approach to crafting and performing in immersive performance formats. Students will work closely alongside Co-Artistic Director Tom Pearson to explore Third Rail's toolbox of techniques, including:
- Developing presence and clarity around audience engagement
- Remaining spontaneous and responsive to the changing landscape of an active audience
- Generating game play for crafting immersive scenes
- Understanding ritual, narrative, and audience initiation through the study of a scene from one of our immersive productions
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA301
Prereq: None

DANC318 Introduction to Viewpoints
In this studio class, students learn and are immersed in the Viewpoints—a vocabulary which breaks down the two dominant issues any performance-based artist deals with: Time and Space. Students practice the Viewpoints and learn a language for talking about what happens on stage. Through practice, students develop tools not only for their own individual work, but for collaboration, offering a way to quickly generate original work. While a form of movement improvisation, students will also apply the Viewpoints as a means to stage text as well as generate composition pieces. This class is open to directors, actors, designers, dancers, choreographers, musicians, composers, and writers.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA318
Prereq: None

DANC354 Improvisational Forms: Contact Improvisation
This class is designed to explore dance improvisation, specifically through contact with the environment and with other people. Students will expand movement vocabulary, increase compositional awareness, and develop their creative thinking and observation skills, as well as explore personal boundaries, consent, and listening through touch. Material covered will include improvisation exercises, structured improvisational forms, developmental movement patterns and efficient use of self, and an inquiry into relationships and choice.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: THEA354
Prereq: None

DANC359 Space Design for Performance
In this course, students will study, construct, and deconstruct the performative space, whether theatrical or site-based, by analyzing the space as a context to be activated by the body of the performer and witnessed by an audience. Through practical assignments, the class will learn the aesthetic history of the theatrical event (considering plays, rituals, street parades, and digital performances, among others), while developing and discovering the student's own creative process (visual, kinetic, textual, etc.). Students will be guided through each step of the design process, including concept development, visual research, renderings or drawings, model making and drafting.
In this course, special emphasis is given to contemporary performance as a mode of understanding cultural processes as a relational system of engagement within our ecosystem, while looking at environmental and sustainable design, materials, and the environmental impacts of performing. Students will create and design performance spaces, while realizing scale models and drawings and integrating the notions of design and environmental principles and elements. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills using 3D-drafting and 3D-modeling software, utilizing design-technology tools, such as laser cutters and 3D printing, to develop and enhance their work.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA359, ENV359
Prereq: THEA105 OR THEA150 OR THEA185 OR ARST131 OR ARST190

DANC360 West African Dance II
This intermediate-level course is intended for students who have had some previous training in West African dance. In this course students will learn more complex and physically challenging dances drawn from several cultures in Ghana. In addition, students will be presented with a rich pallet of general West African movement vocabulary and will continue to engage in the discussion of the cultural context in which the dances occur, through reading, writing, video, and lecture.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC

DANC362 Bharata Natyam II: Embracing the Traditional and the Modern
This advanced course is designed to further students' understanding of the technique, history, and changing nature of Bharata Natyam dance and of Indian classical dance in general. The primary aim of the course is to foster an understanding of the role, function, and imaging of Bharata Natyam dance vis-a-vis ideas about tradition and modernity. Although the course assumes no prior knowledge of Bharata Natyam, we will move rapidly through the material. We will focus mainly on more complex studio work, extensive readings, and video presentations. In preparation for this course, students should have movement experience in other dance tradition(s). Occasionally, the class could include a guest lecture given by either a visiting scholar, dancer, or choreographer respected in the field of South Asian dance internationally.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Dance History: Why Dance Matters
Dance History: Why Dance Matters investigates myriad social, political, and historical events that have impelled performers and choreographers to create dances that broadcast their personal concerns to society in powerful ways. Artistic movements, choreographers, and dancers examined will include the aristocratic Imperial Russian Ballet; gender fluidity in Nijinsky's roles in Diaghilev's Les Ballets Russes; the microcosm of immigrant and black performers in vaudeville; dance and the Harlem Renaissance; the rejection of ballet by Lōie Fuller, Isadora Duncan, and Ruth St. Denis; the political work of early modern dancers Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman; war's aftermath in the German Ausdruckstanz of Mary Wigman and Kurt Jooss and Japanese butoh; the anthropological research of black choreographers Katherine Dunham and Pearl Primus; the psychological dance-theater of Antony Tudor and Pina Bausch; democracy within the postmodern rebellion of the Judson Dance Theater; Civil Rights-era social activist choreographers; and the response of choreographers and performance artists to the culture wars of the 1990s and the AIDS crisis. Students will pursue extended research, view performance videos and documentaries, and be expected to write and talk about dance.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC376 Artist in the Community: Civic Engagement and Place-Based Dance Making
Through both theoretical analysis and practical application, students will explore how, in a collaborative community setting, performance and art-making come into relationship with the local environment, history, and communities. This hybrid course includes readings, seminar discussion, project-based learning, and community engaged research and practice. We will gain an overview of artists who engage directly with communities, places and environments, and explore new means of civic participation. The class will work on a collaborative project based in Middletown area and history. For final projects, students will develop short, creative projects in collaboration with a site of their choosing.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENVVS
Prereq: None

DANC377 Perspectives in Dance: Queering the Dancing Body: Critical Perspectives on LGBTQ Representation
This course focuses on questions of "queering" dance as a historical, cultural, social, and political enterprise. Focusing on both historical and postmodern dance contexts, the course explores key issues around gender and identity, with special reference to the concepts of performativity, impersonation, sexuality, and transformation. The course places the notion of "flows of gender and transformation" at its center, and examines historical, social, and aesthetic shifts in these ideas over the past 50 years. It draws on case studies ranging from female/male dance traditions of impersonation in India, China, Japan, and Indonesia, to postmodern shifts of "classical" dance (such as the all-male cast of Matthew Bourne's "Swan Lake") and more popular forms such as voguing and "RuPaul's Drag Race."
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC378 Repertory and Performance
This course examines choreography and its performance as an embodied experience. Students will research a theme-specific topic and participate in the creation of a contemporary work under the direction, guidance, and mentorship of a faculty choreographer. The class will serve as a laboratory for experimenting with the performance techniques and evolving methodologies of the teaching artist, preparing the student for the practice of embodied research. The work will use video projections. The course culminates in the performance of the work developed during the semester of study.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC378A Repertory and Performance: Storied Places
Grounded in the experiences of the multiple African American migrations of the late-19th and early-20th centuries, this course will explore the ideas of migration, displacement, home, and place writ large. As a community, we will collaboratively develop a performance that will utilize movement, text, and...
DANC379 Dance as Activism
How does art effect change? Why does the phrase "social movements," include the action word - movement? In what ways does dance instigate action as a means of resistance? This course is an investigation into these questions through both lecture/discussion and embodied practices. It will look at various choreographers whose work is rooted in grappling with social justice issues, choreographic and community engagement tools, as well as protests as choreographed performance art. All course work and inquiry will lead up to a final project wherein students create their own choreographic sketch/community engagement using the language of dance/performance art, as the foundation for addressing a particular historical or present social issue of their choice.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC381 Japan's Nuclear Disasters
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 are central to the history of the 20th century. This course examines the scientific, cultural, and political origins of the bombs; their use in the context of aerial bombings and related issues in military history; the decisions to use them; the human cost to those on whom they were dropped; and their place in history, culture, and identity politics to the present. Sources will include works on the history of science; military, political, and cultural history; literary and other artistic interpretations; and a large number of primary source documents, mostly regarding U.S. policy questions. In addition, we will be examining the development of the civilian nuclear industry in Japan with a focus on the nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima and other accidents. This is an extremely demanding course.

This interdisciplinary, experiential, and experimental course combines studio learning (movement studies and interdisciplinary, creative exploration) and seminars (presentations and discussions). No previous dance or movement study is required, and the course is not particularly geared toward dancers or performers. However, your willingness to experiment on and share movement is important. We encourage you to think about movement as a method of accessing human experiences and making distance malleable, a way to explore your own sensations, thoughts, and reactions in learning history.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST381, SISP381, CEAS384, ENVS381
Prereq: None

DANC398 Senior Colloquium in Dance Research
This course focuses on workingshopping senior capstone research projects/theses, critically analyzing and situating their work within the larger fields of dance and dance research. In addition to sharing senior capstone research in progress, the course incorporates opportunities to interact and study with successful dance artists/scholars, including but not limited to, CFA visiting artists and current faculty, and to thereby encounter the most current shifts happening in the field of dance and dance research. Issues concerning dance/research that will be addressed include the following: relevance, validity, rigor, diversity and globalization, interdisciplinarity, citizenship, and social justice as they pertain to dance and dance research and to the senior capstone projects/theses specifically. This is an opportunity for our students to delve deeper into their own research while expanding their focus to better understand and frame their work in a larger context.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None
DANC419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

DANC420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

DANC420A Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U

DANC435 Advanced Dance Practice A
Participation as a dancer in faculty- or student-choreographed dance concerts.
Course entails 30 hours of rehearsal and performance time.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC445 Advanced Dance Practice B
Identical with DANC435. Entails 60 hours of rehearsal and performance time.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC447 Dance Teaching Practicum
This course is an exploration and practice of creating programs/projects that are relevant and inspiring for specific communities. The practicum will involve engaging with a community beyond the Wesleyan campus through dance/movement.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

DANC491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

DANC492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT