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 Production Techniques
Areas to be covered in this course include lighting design and execution, stage management, costume and scene design, and set construction. Practical experience in the department’s production season is an important part of 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

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 Afro-Brazilian Dance I
This course will examine the study of the African diaspora, the influence of African culture in South America. It will introduce religious, social, and contemporary dance forms through a historical perspective of African identity in Brazil.
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

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-THEA
Identical With: CEAS229, THEA220
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 art forms. 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

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
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. The semester of Dance 250 focuses on the creation of group and the presentation of a formal black box theatrical setting, while the semester of Dance 249 focuses on developing and presentation in an informal setting.
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 the female style.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
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: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC300 Contemporary Dance Technique II/III
Drawing on multiple approaches to dance techniques and the moving body, this course will build on capacities developed in Contemporary Dance 1. Students will be encouraged to cultivate greater awareness of space, time, rhythm, corporal navigation and energy, as well as a wider range of dynamic variation and more sophisticated understanding of kinetic alignment.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC301 Anatomy and Kinesiology
This course will cover structure and function of skeletal and muscular systems, basic mechanics of efficient movement, concepts essential for re-patterning and realigning the body, common dance and sports injuries, and information regarding injury prevention and approaches to treatment.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC302 Ballet II
This is an intermediate-level course. Strong emphasis on correct alignment and the development of dynamics and stylistic qualities will be prominent while students learn combinations.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC307 Mobilizing Dance: Cinema, the Body, and Culture in South Asia
This course focuses on questions of "mobility"--cultural, social, and political--as embodied in two major cultural forms of South Asia, namely "classical" dance and cinema. Using Tamil cinema and Bharatanatyam dance as case studies, the course focuses on issues of colonialism and history, class, sexuality and morality, and globalization. The course places the notion of "flows of culture" at its center and examines historical, social, and aesthetic shifts in these art forms over the past 150 years.
The course is both studio- and lecture-based. It includes learning rudimentary Bharatanatyam technique, watching and analyzing film dance sequences, and participating in guest master classes in ancillary forms such as Bollywood dance and Kathak (North Indian classical dance). The studio portion of this course is for beginners, and no previous dance experience is necessary.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: FGSS307, ANTH306
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 a 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
DANC364 Media for Performance
This course examines the use of technology in performance, from the creation of mechanical moving scenery to 3D scenography. We will look into the development of the theatrical technology from the Renaissance to today's conception of the digital theater, virtual reality, and online performances. The class format will be divided into lectures and studio class, where students will develop practical work creating their own digital performances.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: THEA359
Prereq: None

DANC366 West African Dance III
Building on the knowledge gained in West African Dance I and II (DANC260 and DANC360), this course is intended for the very advanced student who has a lot of experience in West African dance. Students will learn rhythmically and physically complex traditional dances from selected ethnic groups in Ghana and will continue to hone in on the general movement vocabulary and discourse of West African dance in general. Students will also learn original contemporary West African dance phrases choreographed by the instructor and be guided through a creative process through improvisation to create their own phrases.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC371 Site-Specific Choreography
This course addresses the construction of contemporary performance in alternative, nontheatrical spaces. Students will create, design, and structure movement and image metaphors; design and realize scenic objects; and integrate technologies that enhance performance at large. Daily practice will focus on developing compositional tools to trigger events, to set off the performance space, and to create optimal conditions for audience and performer participation. Skills in movement observation, critical reading, and video analysis will inform the course's practical and historical frameworks.
DANC378 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 objects as research tools and creative processes as our methodology to engage these themes.

Our process in creating this work will include improvisation, development of set materials, readings, discussion, and writing. Students will have the opportunity to work alongside professional dancers as well as Wesleyan faculty and their peers in preparation for an interdisciplinary performance in the spring.

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

DANC376 The Artist in the City: Civic Engagement and Community-Based Art-Making in the Urban Landscape

Through both theoretical analysis and practical application, students will explore how, in a collaborative community setting, art-making can be used to address environmental issues and spark community dialogue. Lectures, readings, and research will provide an overview of the work of contemporary artists who engage directly in the life of the city, incorporate public employees and public land, and explore new means of civic participation. Students will study various models of community engagement and apply theoretical work to their field-based research. For final projects, students will direct short, creative-based projects in collaboration with Middletown community members to be presented as part of the Riverfront Encounter.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENVS
Identical With: ENVS376
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

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: CEAS384, HIST381, ENVS381, SISP381
Prereq: None
DANC402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

DANC403 Department/Program Project or Essay  
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

DANC404 Department/Program Project or Essay  
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

DANC407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)  
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

DANC408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)  
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

DANC409 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

DANC410 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

DANC411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

DANC412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

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

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