DANCE (DANC)
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 solo works that emphasize composition and innovation. 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
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
students learn combinations. The course will build on the capacities developed in Modern Technique II. Students will be encouraged to cultivate greater awareness of space, time, 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: DANC215

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

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 ensembles a way to quickly generate original work. While a form of movement improvisation, students will also apply the Viewpoints as a means to staging to 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

DANC341 Embodiment and Education: Critical and Liberatory Perspectives
A theoretical and practical course in teaching movement to children and adults, this course will center on dance education as a site for social relevance, justice, and action. Utilizing readings, discussion, writing, practice, and reflection, students will investigate theories of education, politics of body, and various methods for teaching through dance and movement. While prior dance training is not required, students should simultaneously register for a movement class. Students with an interest in dance, arts, education, or an interest in creative and bodily engagement in learning will find this course directly applicable.

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

DANC354 Improvisational Forms
This class is designed to explore various approaches to dance improvisation. Students will expand movement vocabulary, increase compositional awareness,
develop their creative thinking and observational skills, and sharpen their performance presence. Material covered will include improvisation exercises, contact improvisation, structured improvisational forms, development and performance of scores, and exploration of the relationship between movement, sound, and music.

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

DANC359 Design and the Performative Space
In this course, we will explore, construct, and deconstruct the performative space, whether theatrical, site-specific, or virtual. We will analyze the space as a context to be activated by the body of the performer and witnessed by an audience. Through theoretical and practical assignments, we will study the aesthetic history of the theatrical event while developing your own creative design process. You will be guided through each step of this process: concept development, visual research, renderings or drawings (Vector Works and Sketchup), model making (3D printing and modeling), and drafting. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA359
Prereq: THEA105 OR THEA150 OR THEA185 OR ARST131

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 palette 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
Prereq: None

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-à-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
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

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-THEA
Identical With: THEA360
Prereq: None

DANC365 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 Choreography Workshop
This class will focus on the process of making a dance. Skills in organizing and leading rehearsals, creative decision making, and movement observation will be developed within the context of individual students honing their approach and style as choreographers. Practical and theoretical issues raised by the works in progress will frame in-class discussions, and all necessary technical aspects of producing the dances will be addressed.

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

DANC375 American Dance History
This course follows the remarkable progression of both ballet and modern dance in Europe and America from the late 19th century through the present. Beginning with classical ballet in Imperial Russia, this somewhat chronological look at the developments in dance will be approached in regard to the sociopolitical and artistic climate that contributed to its evolution. Choreographers and movements covered will include the ballets of Marius Petipa; Sergei Diaghilev’s LES BALLETTS RUSSES; Isadora Duncan; Loie Fuller; Denishawn; Austrucktanz; modernism and the work of Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman; anthropologist/dancers Katherine Dunham and Pearl Primus; Merce Cunningham/John Cage; postmodernism and the Judson Dance Theater; Bill T. Jones; Japanese Butoh; and the German Tanztheater tradition of Kurt Jooss and Pina Bausch. Video and films will be
shown weekly in conjunction with assigned readings. Projects include research/analysis of the work of a choreographer.

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: ENV5376
Prereq: None

DANC377 Perspectives in Dance as Culture: What the Body Knows--Social Change and Revolution

In this project-based class we will study the work of movement artists who directly address and engender social change. We will engage in methods of physical practice that focus on contemplation, transformation, physical re-orientation and social engagement. Requirements will include regular studio practice, and the development of a personal practice and personal manifesto. The final project will consist of a semester-long research project on a topic that can be characterized as a disruption or disaster. The research project will culminate in a persuasive position paper and a performative or otherwise organized social action (performance, site-specific work, installation, demonstration, or community action).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: ANTH325, ENV5377
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 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

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, ENV5381
Prereq: None

DANC398 Senior Colloquium in Dance Research

This course focuses on workshopping 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
Dance (DANC)

Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

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: A-F

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

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

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

DANC447 Dance Teaching Practicum
This course is the required practicum course associated with DANC341--Embodiment and Education: Critical and Liberatory Perspectives. This course involves preparing and teaching weekly dance classes in the surrounding community.
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