DANCE

The Dance Department at Wesleyan is a contemporary program with a global perspective. The curriculum, faculty research, and pedagogy all center on the relationships between theory and practice, embodied learning, and the potential dance making has to be a catalyst for social change. Within that rigorous context, students encounter a diversity of approaches to making, practicing, and analyzing dance in an intimate learning atmosphere. The program embraces classical forms from ballet, Bharata Natyam, Javanese, and Ghanaian, to experimental practices that fuse tradition and experimentation into new, contemporary forms.

The emphasis of the major is on creating original scholarship, be it choreographic or written, that views dance within a specific cultural context, interrogates cultural assumptions, and is informed by a critical and reflective perspective.

Preregistration is possible for many dance courses. All students interested in registering for dance classes should access WesMaps concerning procedures for acceptance into specific courses. Students majoring in dance or indicating strong curricular commitment to dance will be given enrollment preference in all permission-of-instructor courses.

FACULTY

Pedro Alejandro
BS, Cornell University; MFA, Ohio State University
Associate Professor of Dance

Patricia L. Beaman
BFA, University of Michigan; MA, New York University
Artist-in-Residence, Dance

Katja P. Kolcio
MA, University of Georgia Athens; MA, Ohio State University; PHD, Ohio State University
Associate Professor of Dance; Chair, Dance; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies; Associate Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Hari Krishnan
BA, University of Manitoba; MFA, York University; PHD, Texas Womans University
Associate Professor of Dance

Marcela Oteiza
BFA, University of Chile; MFA, California Institute of Arts
Associate Professor of Theater; Associate Professor, Theater

Iddrisu Saaka
DIPL, University of Ghana; MFA, University of California LA
Artist-in-Residence, Dance

Nicole Lynn Stanton
BA, Antioch College; MFA, Ohio State University
Dean of the Arts and Humanities; Associate Professor of Dance; Associate Professor, African American Studies; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies

VISITING FACULTY

Chelsie McPhilimy
BA, University of Wisconsin at Madison; MFA, Ohio State University

Dance Lighting and Media Design Specialist

Julie Mulvihill
BA, Samford University; MA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; PHD, Texas Womans University
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Eiko Otake
BA, SUNY Empire St College
Visiting Artist-in-Residence in Dance

Joya Powell
BA, Columbia University; MA, New York University
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

EMERITI

Susan F. Lourie
BA, Temple University; MALS, Wesleyan University
Adjunct Professor of Dance, Emerita

Urip Sri Maeny
DIPL, Indonesian Conservatory of Mus
Retired Artist-in-Residence, Dance

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Pedro Alejandro; Katja Kolcio; Hari Krishnan; Susan Lourie; Nicole Stanton

• Undergraduate Dance Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/danc/ugrd-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
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

**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
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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: THEA213, MUSC231
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 becoming 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. A key 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
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

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 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 processing. 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, ENVS335
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
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 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.
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
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 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, ENV5381, CEAS384, SISP381
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 globalzation, 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: 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

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

DANC436 Advanced Dance Practice B
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