DANCE

Dance deepens one’s knowledge and expression of human experience. We believe in the creative and intellectual potential of each person. Dance can change the world.

The Dance Department at Wesleyan is a contemporary program with a global perspective. The curriculum centers on the creative act – imagining, making and doing. Our program is interdisciplinary, embodied, collaborative, physically and intellectually rigorous, and fosters personal and social transformation.

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; Director, Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies; Associate Professor, Education Studies; Associate Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Hari Krishnan
BA, University of Manitoba; MFA, York University; PHD, Texas Womans University
Professor of Dance; Chair, Dance; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Marcela Oteíza
BFA, University of Chile; MFA, California Institute of Arts
Associate Professor of Theater; Associate Professor, Theater; Associate Professor, College of the Environment

Iddrisu Saaka
DIPL, University of Ghana; MFA, University of California, Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Dance

Nicole Lynn Stanton
BA, Antioch College; MFA, Ohio State University
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Dance; Professor, Environmental Studies; Professor, African American Studies

VISITING FACULTY

Milka Djordjevich
MFA, Sarah Lawrence College
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Douglas Elkins
Visiting Associate Professor of Dance

Maho Amy Ishiguro

Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Chelsie McPhilimy
BA, University of Wisconsin at Madison; MFA, Ohio State University
Technical Director, Dance Department; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Dance

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

Shamel Pitts
Visiting Instructor in Dance

Joy Powell
BA, Columbia University; MA, New York University
Visiting Assistant Professor, African American Studies; 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 Music
Retired Artist-in-Residence, Dance

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Pedro Alejandro; Katja Kolcio; Hari Krishnan; Joya Powell and Nicole Stanton

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

DANC102F Dance as Cultural Knowledge: Dances from Indonesia (FYS)

Dance as Cultural Knowledge: Dances from Indonesia is a FYS (First Year Seminar) course. It provides opportunities to work on descriptive, creative, and analytical writing about dance and cultures. This interdisciplinary course further allows students to use the practice of traditional and contemporary dance repertoire from Indonesia as a way to experience cultures, history, politics, religions, and aesthetics. Throughout the semester, students will explore the practice of classical court dance in Central Java and traditional Acehnese dance. Further, students will engage with literature from the fields of dance studies, anthropology, and ethnomusicology in order to contextualize their Indonesian dance practice and analyze the cultures that surround their dance practices. This course combines intellectual engagement (reading, writing, research, and class discussion) with the physical and sensational experience of moving our bodies in accordance with cultural practices particular to these two areas. By utilizing these two learning methods, we take a holistic approach to understanding dance as a way of carrying cultural knowledge. Throughout the semester, students will write a short reflective journal on a specific topic each week, and carry out research for a final paper at the end of the semester.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None
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 scene design, and set construction.

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: Practice and Theory
This elementary level ballet course is a mix of practice and theory. Ballet terminology and stylistic concepts will be introduced with emphasis on correct alignment, musicality, and movement flow. In addition to learning the basics of ballet technique, various ways that ballet choreographers have addressed issues of politics, race, and class are examined through films, readings, and discussions. Traditional ballets will be juxtaposed with iterations from contemporary choreographers who have created unique and powerful works addressing issues from the eighteenth century to today.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC205 Afro-Brazilian Dance: Dances of the Orixás
This course explores the primary pantheon of deities, the Orixás, of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé, through their dances, songs, and complex rhythms. We will center our embodied practice through an Africanist technique aesthetic, focusing on polyrhythm, the correlation of dance and nature, polycentrism, theatricality, and oral tradition. Movement exploration supplemented by online readings, discussions and video in order to ascertain a more in-depth understanding of Brazilian history as it pertains to the creation and evolution of Candomblé and its dances as resistance against slavery and racism. A celebratory experience, the lively and multifaceted experiential nature of these dances provides a portal into one of Brazil’s most influential religious and cultural practices.
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 experimentaton, 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  

DANC214 Hip Hop  
This studio practice course introduces students to urban dance practices, aiming to broaden students' understanding of hip hop culture beyond the commercialized representations prevalent in the media today. This class will explore the history and practice of different forms of hip hop: b-boying/b-girling (breaking/breakdancing), uprocking, popping, waving, and locking. We will also look at hip hop's connection to other club forms such as house dance and house-ballroom forms, waacking, and voguing. Students will view video performances of cultural practice (battles and ‘cyphers’), as well as media- and theatrically-influenced forms of hip hop, to identify significant commonalities and differences within hip hop practices.  

Our classes will be conducted to hip hop, house, and dance music from the past four decades, and will begin with a set warm-up and follow with stretching and conditioning exercises. Class will always conclude with a combination that incorporates that week's dance form, and it will be compared to other hip hop dance forms we will be studying.  

Required readings will explore these forms through the lens of historical context and critical theory perspectives on urban dance, supporting an immersive studio practice.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 0.50  
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC  
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: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA  
Identical With: THEA220, CEAS229  
Prereq: None  

DANC216 Contemporary Dance Technique: Dancing During Pandemic  
This combined-level dance class draws on multiple approaches to dance technique and the moving body in an outdoor, site-specific, pandemic-specific context. We will focus on large group ensemble movement as well as on individual movement specificity, and developing awareness of space, time, energy, technical precision, and dynamic variation. Course content will draw on modern dance techniques, contemporary/release techniques, and improvisational forms, as well as somatic practices.  

During any major social transformation or crisis, like this pandemic, movement practice is essential. Our world and our rules of engagement are changing before our eyes. Creative physical movement is integral to our physical and psychosocial well-being, and through it we learn how to navigate the new context. On a basic level, we move our bodies to stimulate circulation of blood, breath, and digestive tract. But, equally important, and more central to higher education, we also need to move in ways that help us adjust to and make sense of our new circumstances—orient ourselves to this new environment. This is the overarching purpose of this course: to collectively find new ways of being, understanding, moving, and creating our new world.  

Classes will be held outside, and students will be expected to dress for the weather, and with freedom of movement in mind—in other words, wear safe footwear and clothing that does not constrict range of motion. Classes will only be canceled in the case of severe weather (i.e., hurricane). In those cases, hybrid practice-based assignments will be given to supplement in-class material.  

This course is intended as an alternative to our regular Contemporary Technique course DANC300, which is being taught in an online format. Students are invited to choose the format that they feel most comfortable with. Both courses count toward major and minor requirements.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U  
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, Ariianne Mnouchkine, Lee Breur, and Julie Taymou, who have all collaborated with Balinese performers.  
Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 0.50  
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC  
Identical With: THEA220, 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 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
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA237
Prereq: None

DANC244 Delicious Movement: Time Is Not Even, Space Is Not Empty
Taught online by NYC-based artist Eiko Otake of Eiko & Koma, this course contemplates metaphorical nakedness and human and bodily experiences of time and space through interdisciplinary discourse. Students will examine how being or becoming a mover reflects and alters each person’s relationships with challenges of the current world, with environment, with history, and with other beings. Topics of study and discussion include atomic bomb literature, postwar Japan, environmental violence such as Fukushima nuclear explosions, death, and pandemic. Together we will acknowledge how distance is malleable and how going to places is an act of choreography and self-curation. Through movement study, reading, writing, drawing, and discussion, the class will be a place of collective learning. Reading, film viewing, movement reviews and journal entries are required every week. Final Project will include an in-class presentation and final paper. Journals are graded by quality of thinking/writing and how they reflect homework assignments. The instructor is available for individual consultation throughout the course. Students are strongly encouraged to nurture their own rigor.
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.
This class will focus on the process of making a dance in a theatrical setting. 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

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: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

**DANC300 Contemporary Dance Technique II/III**

Following our 45 minutes Gaga/dancers online class, the remaining 25 minutes of our time together may include discussing video content proposed to students in advance of class meetings; introducing the instructor’s body of choreographic and collaborative works, including dance for film; creating an open forum for discussion of physical tasks; and continuing physical research.

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: Cr/U
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 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 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 Dance Teaching Workshop: The Embodied Practice of Knowing**

This course familiarizes students with various methods and practices for teaching dance and movement to children and adults. Combining theoretical perspectives on education, dance, body/mind, and creativity together with hands-on practice teaching dance, students will gain practical skill in curriculum design and teaching while developing a personal philosophy on the role of dance.
in education and life. As part of this course, students will design and teach a dance class of their choice in the community (concurrent enrollment in Dance Teaching Practicum DANC447, 0.5 credit, required). Prior dance training is not required; however, students should have an interest in dance, arts, education, and bodily engagement in learning. Previous student-design practicum courses have included: Creative Dance for Children, Dance for Seniors, Tango, Jazz, Movement Improvisation, Dance Composition, Poetry Through Movement, Science Choreography, Mask Making and Performance, and Contemporary Dance. Sites have included local schools, after-school programs, Vinnie’s Jump and Jive, on-campus locations, senior centers, assisted living facilities, churches, and synagogues.

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

DANC354 Improvisation: Diasporic Modalities
Freestyle, groove, jam: Improvisation has always been a key tool in the creation and evolution of dances of the African Diaspora. This movement-based course will deepen the inquiry of the Africanist aesthetic in dance through an improvisatory experiential framework. What movement conversations are created through a deep listening to self and our impulses to engage with sound/music, the environment, and our community? How do we honor the self in collective experiences? Students will embody explorations of the improvisatory concepts, sequences, and modalities that are rooted in the dances of: West African, Afro-Beat, Afro-Brazilian, Jamaican Dancehall, Capeoira, Jazz, African American Social Dances, House, and Bomba. We will use the foundational improvisational principles of these dance forms through a balance of play, investigation, and rigor. Studio work will be supplemented with readings, video, and homework assignments geared toward creating new improvisational scores. The course will also include visits from guest artists.

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 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, ENVS359
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
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

DANC363 Dancing Bodies, Cultures and Environments
This course will look at the intersections and common spaces between body/self, community/culture, and environment/place. To do this we will employ several research methods. Students will be asked to complete readings, participate in discussions, view relevant media, and participate in movement master classes. We will also create solo and group performance works that explore our individual and communal experiences of body/community/environment. Students will be asked to complete readings, participate in discussions, participate in improvisational movement sessions, and work in a collaborative context. Each student will develop a final project that contains both a written and a performative component.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
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
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

DANC370 Choreography Workshop/Proscenium
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. Students will prepare to present for proscenium theater/audience.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 2.00
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
Identical With: THEA372
Prereq: None

DANC372 Choreography and Performance Art Perspectives
This course considers theories and methods of dance scholarship and takes a comparative approach to dance as research, research as choreography. This is a research methods course in which we will consider ways that knowledge is constructed and legitimated, focusing on the role of physical/somatic engagement, creativity, and performance in research. Problems and issues central to research pertaining representation, authority, validity, rigor, reliability, and ethics will be addressed in the context of dance studies and critical qualitative research studies. A final research project will be required.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC374 Perspectives on Dance of the African Diaspora
In this combined technique and ethnography course we will explore some of the many dance practices of the African diaspora. We will focus on Senegal and Ghana in West Africa and follow the path of the Middle Passage to Cuba, Brazil, and the United States. Investigating both traditional and popular dance forms, we will consider how African dance and culture has influenced many performance practices throughout the Americas. To these ends, coursework will include: learning specific dances (Sabar, Capoeira, Orisha dancing, salsa, tap, and hip-hop for example); engaging in readings that provide critical, cultural, and historical context; participating in analytical and self-reflective dialogue; as well as creating an independent research paper.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Prereq: None

DANC375 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 Lôle 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 The Artist in the Community: Civic Engagement and Collaborative Dancemaking
This is a hybrid course in which we will combine theoretical analysis with practical application and project based-work. Students will explore how, in a collaborative community setting, performance and art-making can be used to address local issues, spark community dialogue, and encourage civic participation, and will consider the power dynamics and ethical issues that emerge. This hybrid course includes readings, seminar discussion, and community-engaged research, practice, and reflection. We will begin with an overview of artists who engage directly with communities, places, and environments, and we will explore new means of civic participation. Artists will include: learning specific dances (Sabar, Capoeira, Orisha dancing, salsa, tap, and hip-hop for example); engaging in readings that provide critical, cultural, and historical context; participating in analytical and self-reflective dialogue; as well as creating an independent research paper.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENVS
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 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

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 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

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 workingshop 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: 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
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: Amp Graded
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