

**YORK UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HEALTH  
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE**

<b>Course:</b>	PKIN 0560 0.0 Modern Dance
<b>Term:</b>	Winter 2017
<b>Prerequisite/Co-requisite:</b>	none
<b>Course Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.yorku.ca/samara">www.yorku.ca/samara</a>
<b>Course Instructor:</b>	Samara L. Thompson samara@yorku.ca appointment times by request
<b>Time and Location:</b>	Section M      Tuesday, Thursday      2:30 pm      Tait Studio 6

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#### **EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

##### **Organization of the Course**

This studio course is an introduction to modern dance. No previous dance experience is necessary. The course is designed to give students a practical, theoretical, and artistic understanding of modern dance, with an emphasis placed on learning modern dance technique. Students are expected to learn and memorize the warm-up, centre work, travelling combinations, and dance routines taught throughout the term.

##### **Dance Attire**

In order to dance and move freely, appropriate clothing is required. Please wear comfortable, form fitting clothing, such as tights and bodysuits or t-shirts and sweat pants (nothing too loose). Jeans and dress clothes are unacceptable. Students are expected to dance in bare feet. Hair must be securely fastened away from the face and neck. For your safety and the safety of fellow students, refrain from wearing jewellery.

#### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

##### **Statement of Purpose and Learning Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to teach students basic modern dance technique. As this course is practical in nature, the majority of class time is spent learning modern dance technique. By the end of term students use learned skills to choreograph a dance. A class is spent watching dance videos and movies. For a further breadth of understanding, an overview of modern dance history is presented. The specific learning objectives of the course are that students will:

- demonstrate basic modern dance technique, including but not limited to swings, triplets, contractions, and leaps.
- learn and memorize the warm-up, traveling combinations, and dance routine.
- create a short piece of original choreography.
- be able to integrate music and dance.
- have a basic understanding of modern dance history.

## COURSE TEXT / READINGS

### Selected Readings From:

Kraines, Minda G., Esther Pryor. *Jump Into Jazz*. Mountain View: Mayfield, 1996.  
Macel Theys, Emily. *Modern Masters*. Dancespirit Magazine, March 11, 2011. Web. 6 May 2016.  
Penrod, James. *The Dance Prepares*. Mountain View: Mayfield, 1990.

### Reference Material (optional)

*Beach Birds for Camera*. Dir. Elliot Caplan. Cunningham Dance Foundation. The Foundation, 1992.  
*Bill T. Jones: Dancing to the Promised Land*. Dir. Mischa Scorer. BBC, 2004.  
*The Dancemakers*. Chor. Danny Grossman. CBC, 1987.  
*The Dance Works of Doris Humphrey*. Chor. Doris Humphrey. Dance Horizons Video, 1999.  
*Human Sex*. La La La Human Steps. Cinema Libre, 1988.  
*Isaora Duncan Dance*. Dir. Andrea Mantell-Seidell and Julia Levien. Dance Horizons Video, 1995.  
Lewis, Daniel. *The Illustrated Dance Technique of Jose Limon*. New York: Harper & Row, 1984.  
*Martha Graham in Performance*. Prod. Nathan Kroll. Chor. Martha Graham. Kultur, 2002.  
Penrod, James. *The Dance Prepares*. Mountain View: Mayfield, 1990.  
*The Pilobolus Dance Theatre*. Dir. Merrill Brockway. WNET/13, 1998.  
*Very Dangerous Pastime*. Dir. Laura Taler. Canada Dance Festival, 2000.

## EVALUATION

<b>Theoretical</b>	<b>15%</b>
There will be a written exam based on historical information and technical descriptions of modern dance.	
<b>Practical</b>	<b>45%</b>
Students are evaluated on their retention and execution of technique, exercises, and routines, as well as their progress and improvement. This is worth 15%. There will be a Practical Exam based on class material worth 30%.	
<b>Choreographic Assignment</b>	<b>20%</b>
Students will choreograph a short routine in small groups. A handout describing the details of the project will be given out later in the term.	
<b>Participation &amp; Attendance</b>	<b>20%</b>
Students are expected to participate fully. This portion of the grade also reflects attitude and effort. As dance training is cumulative in nature, regular attendance and punctuality are necessary for the learning process and as such are expected of the students in this class.	

## GRADING, ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

### Attendance

To receive credit for a practicum course a student must attend and actively participate in a minimum of 80 percent of classes for the course. When full participation is not possible, accommodation agreements may be reached with the student (complete classes missed in next term, individual testing, etc.). The following absences are allowed:

- 24 hour course, 2 hours per week for 12 weeks, students allowed 4 absences

Students are expected to participate in every class. Students may miss two classes without penalty and be late twice without penalty. Absences in excess of two per term can result in a grade deduction of 2% per occurrence. Lateness in excess of two per term can result in a grade deduction of 1% per occurrence. Early departures are treated as a late and can result in a grade deduction of 1% per occurrence.

If a student is injured or ill, obtain and submit a hard copy of a doctor's note. Students will not have a grade deduction for absences accompanied with a doctor's note and for other University approved reasons for absences (religious accommodation, compassionate grounds, etc), however all absences contribute to the overall number of absences allowed to pass the course. All attendance related grade deductions are compiled to a maximum of 10% off a student's grade.

In the event of an absence or limited participation, **all missed material is to be learned prior to returning to class.**

### **Grading Scheme**

The grading scheme for the course is A, B, C, Pass, and Fail (e.g. A = 80 to 100%, B = 70 to 79%, C = 60 to 69%, F = below 59%). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade. For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

<http://calendars.students.yorku.ca>

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Health section of the Undergraduate Calendar.

<http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/kinesiology-and-health-science>

### **Physical Demands**

This course will include elements that are physically demanding. Prior injuries can be aggravated by strenuous exercise so check with your physician and inform the Course Director before beginning the course. Be sure to share with the Course Director any changes in your injury or health that may impact your participation.

This course also includes human contact (i.e., correction of alignment or technical execution as well as the contact with colleagues). Students uncomfortable with the use of touch are requested to relay their feelings to the Course Director as soon as possible.

### **Assignment Submission**

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments must be handed into the Course Instructor during class time. Alternate arrangements may be considered on an individual basis and must be agreed upon by the Course Instructor in advance of the due date.

### **Lateness Penalty**

Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized. The penalty is 5% per day that the assignment is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).

### **Missed Tests**

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. In such cases, tests may be rescheduled and/or alternate arrangements may be made on an individual basis. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

## **IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

[http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ASCP.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ASCP.htm)

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

## **IMPORTANT COURSE DATES**

### **Videos**

Thursday, February 16

Dance films and videos are presented in class. Come dressed in dance attire.

A pen and paper are highly recommended.

### **Written Exam**

Tuesday, February 28

Exam will be written in class.

### **Practical Exam**

Thursday, March 16

Tuesday, March 21

Be prepared to dance any of the material covered in class.

### **Choreographic Assignment**

Thursday, April 30

Presentation of group choreography.

### **Last Class**

Tuesday, April 4

*Please note: All course assignment dates are subject to change.*