Final Project Proposal

The final assignment for this course is to write a 10-page paper analyzing a particular piece of choreography, dance film, or dance event (social dance or dance training) through the lens of gender. In your paper, you should consider your own ideas, as well as, the ideas of others, and through navigating layers of arguments and counterarguments, come to some conclusions. Thus, this assignment is part exam (can you pull forth the most relevant arguments from the course materials to address your topic?) and part essay (can you synthesize those arguments with your own ideas to provide a cogent point of view). Your paper must cite relevant arguments gathered from your readings this semester. This project is your opportunity to synthesize your learning from the semester (and this is why I’ve been encouraging you to take notes throughout the course). You should also do some additional research to see what others have written about your specific topic. The paper is due May 5 and it is worth 30% of your grade.

In your proposal, identify a specific work of choreography, dance film or a dance event that you would like to examine and name some of the key arguments/theories/authors that you can imagine engaging in your analysis. You may choose your topic either by deciding on a particular set of questions you would like to explore and then choosing a dance example that allows you to tackle these or by choosing a dance event or recording that is of interest to you and then looking for relevant arguments. If you are having trouble deciding on your topic you may write more than one proposal, but do flesh each idea out. Fill up most of a page with your proposal so that you force yourself to think about what you will analyze and how in some depth before taking on the project. You are also welcome to email me over the weekend if you have ideas about the kind of project you’d like to undertake, but are at a loss for finding the specific dance work around which to focus the project.

Due: Monday April 14 at or before the start of class
Length: approximately one page (per proposal)