Instructor: Kristin Horrigan  
Class Time: TuF 3:30-5:20  
E-mail: horrigan@marlboro.edu  
Class Location: Dance Studio  
Office Phone: 258-9278  
Credits: 3  
Office Hours: by appointment (M, W, Th, F)  
Prerequisites: permission of the instructor

Course Description
In this class, students will explore both the art and the craft of making dances (in the modern dance tradition). Responding to specific assignments, students will create a number of dances throughout the semester, bringing a new draft to class each week. Class sessions will focus on viewing and discussing students' work, and on exploring tools for the creative process and ideas about composition. Attention will be given to learning how to give and receive choreographic feedback, and to editing and developing existing choreography. In addition, students will study the choreographic methods of other artists through viewing videos and reading texts. This course will require students to work independently and commit a substantial amount of time outside of class to the completion of choreographic studies. Students will present their final projects in an end of the semester showing. This course may be repeated for credit; assignments, readings, and special topics will differ each semester. The focus this semester is on choreographic development – both development of a particular movement idea (i.e. full exploration of the idea) and development of a complete piece (i.e. weaving together multiple ideas to create a larger whole).

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate:

- The ability to create movement
- The ability to develop choreographic material over time and space and shape sequences that have clear beginnings, middles and ends
- An increased understanding of how dance communicates (and how this communication is supported by choreographic craft)
- An increased familiarity with the work of contemporary choreographers and the range of processes they use in creating their work
- The ability to give and receive detailed and constructive feedback
- The ability to conceive, create, refine, and present a unique work of choreography

Requirements:
Attendance at all classes  
Full participation in class discussions and movement exercises  
Completion of all assignments

Assignments:

1. Weekly Choreographic Studies and Exercises – Specific assignments will be given for each project. You are expected to spend 4-5 hours per week in the studio outside of classes to complete your choreographic assignments.
2. ‘Choreographer of the Week’ – Each week, spend 1-2 hours researching a choreographer of your choice. Research should include reading about the choreographer’s work and watching videos. Combine library and online resources. Submit a one-page writing each week that describes how movement ideas develop in the choreographer’s work or how the work as a whole is structured if you have a full-length dance to watch. Provide a short bibliography to those who wish to follow up on your research. At least half of the choreographers you research should be new ones on our list (not previously researched by other students). If/when you research choreographers already researched by others, you must add new sources and new insights into their work. Write ups and links to videos should be shared on Lore.

3. Warm Up – Students will take turns leading a 10-15 minute warm up for the class.

4. Attendance at Local/On-Campus Dance Concerts
   Saturday September 12, 7pm, Pape Ba and dancers, Location TBA (on campus)
   Thursday October 1, Lucky Plush, Serkin Center Dance Studio

5. Final Project – A dance developed over the course of the last half of the semester based on a personal assignment. Accompanying the dance, a short paper (5-6 pages, due Dec. 11) describing and evaluating the process and product.

7. End of Semester Showing – Final Projects will be presented at an end-of-semester showing open to the public on Friday and Saturday December 4 and 5 at 7:30pm. The show will be preceded by a week of tech rehearsals (M-Th 6pm-10pm).

Attendance:
Because there are assignments due each week and much of our learning will take place in class together, it is critical that you attend class regularly. If you are ill and cannot present your assignment in class, plan to present it at the next class meeting. If you are ill, but not too ill, you are encouraged to attend class to observe the movement exercises and participate in class discussions. If you are quite ill, you are encouraged to stay in bed, sleep, drink tea, and get better. If you must miss class for any other reason, you should submit your weekly assignment on videotape in advance of the class that you will miss. Students are responsible to make up work missed due to illness and absence.

Tardiness:
Late arrivals will affect your grade, but more importantly they will affect the rest of the class. Please arrive on time so that we can all begin together.

Grading:
Choreographic Studies 25%
Choreographer A Week Assignments 15%
Final Project (including project paper) 35%
Quality of Class Participation (Leading warm ups, giving feedback to others, creating material in in-class exercises) 25%

This syllabus is subject to modification by the instructor at any point during the semester.
Bibliography:


Class Calendar:

September 4  Getting Started – Generating Movement
Assignments Due: See the videos posted on courses. Choose one and make a list of choices the choreographer made.

September 8  Making Choices
Assignments Due: 3-5 bits of stuff, dream list
Reading Due: Art and Fear (pages TBD)

September 11  Mind Maps
Assignments Due: Choreographer a Week #1
Take one chunk from previous class OR one idea from dream list and develop it into a little one minute dance with a beginning, middle and end.

September 15  Artist-Centered Feedback
Assignments due: A second chunk
Reading Due: Liz Lerman’s Critical Response Process (excerpts)

September 18  Getting Physical
Assignments Due: Choreographer a Week #2
A third chunk – this one very physical

September 22  Pushing One Idea
Assignments due: chunk that pushes one idea

September 29  Layering
Assignment Due: Choreographer a Week #3
Layer together some or all of your chunks (in whole or in part) to make one piece
Reading Due: Preston-Dunlop “Structuring Movement Material”

October 2  Playing with Space
Assignment Due: Revise your composition and play with radical choices around space. Try at least 3 versions and then pick one. Do this rehearsal with a friend who can direct you to try different things. Use video too so that you can see.
Reading Due: Preston-Dunlop “Formal Devices and Manipulation”
Burrows “Contract/Performance Space/Language/Choreography”

October 6  Adding Others
Assignment Due: Group A – choreographer a week #4
Group B -- Revise your composition OR make a new one out of your chunks. Either way add in more dancers.
Reading Due: Preston-Dunlop “Working Together”

October 9  Adding Others
Assignment Due: Group B – choreographer a week #4
Group A -- Revise your composition OR make a new one out of your chunks. Either way add in more dancers.

Reading Due: Lerman “Structure: The Container that Holds the Work”

October 13  What We Need
Assignment Due: TBD (Revision OR Collaborative Group Project OR Music Study)
Reading Due: Preston-Dunlop “The Sound of a Dance”, “Movement/Sound Nexus”

October 16  Choreographing Collaboratively
Assignment Due: Collaborative Group Project

October 20  NO CLASS – Hendricks’ Days

October 23  Plans for Personal Project
Assignments Due: 1-page written proposal for Personal Project

October 27  Fueling the Process
Assignments Due: TBD

October 30  Making YOUR Work: Raw Material
Assignments Due: Group A -- Personal Project – Early Sketches
Group B -- Choreographer A Week #5

November 3  Making YOUR Work: Raw Material
Assignments Due: Group B -- Personal Project – Early Sketches
Group A -- Choreographer A Week #5

November 6  Making YOUR Work: Partial Draft
Assignments Due: Group A -- Personal Project – Developed Chunks
Group B -- Choreographer A Week #6

November 10  Making YOUR Work: Partial Draft
Assignments Due: Group B -- Personal Project – Developed Chunks
Group A -- Choreographer A Week #6

November 13  Making YOUR Work: full draft
Assignments Due: Group A -- Personal Project – full draft
Group B -- Choreographer A Week #7

November 17  Making YOUR Work: full draft
Assignments Due: Group B -- Personal Project – full draft
Group A -- Choreographer A Week #7

November 20  Studio to Stage
Assignment Due: Group A -- Personal Project – Revised full draft
Group B – Title and Program Info
November 24 Studio to Stage
   Assignment Due:  Group B -- Personal Project – Revised full draft
   Group A – Title and Program Info

(Nov. 25-Nov.29 Thanksgiving Break)

November 30-December 3 – Technical Rehearsals for Dances in the Rough (6-10pm)

December 1    Performance Coaching

December 4    Optional Performance Coaching

December 4&5 Dances in the Rough (call 6pm, show 7:30pm)

December 11  Wrap Up Meeting 2-5pm
   Assignment Due:  Reflection paper about final project