

Carthage College Department of Theatre
DNC2070: Choreography and Repertory
Instructor: Stacy Pottinger

Syllabus, Spring 2022

MF 11:45 - 1:25 PM

TARC 2235

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: spottinger@carthage.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will navigate the creative process of dance making through reflection, exploration, and composition. Each lesson will begin with a warm-up and will follow with movement investigations meant to guide students on a journey of dance making. In this course, students will have opportunities to discover movement material arising from each investigation and shape this material into performable studies.

TEXT & SUPPLIES

Face masks must be worn in all campus buildings

All course readings will be posted digitally on Schoology

Notebook, pen, water bottle

Please refer to the expected attire listed below

*Basic cell phone cameras are *suggested* for movement assignments

*Bluetooth earbuds also *suggested*, but not required

SUGGESTED READING

Olsen, Andrea with Caryn McHose. [The Place of Dance: A Somatic Guide To Dancing and Dance Making.](#)

Lerman, Liz and John Borstel. [Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process: A method for getting useful feedback on anything you make, from dance to dessert.](#) 1st ed.

Randall, Jill. [Life As A Modern Dancer.](#) [Blog]

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To explore a variety of movement investigations as catalysts for choreographic development
- To conceptualize and develop movement related to a specific choreographic exploration.
- To continue the development of a uniquely personal and varied approach to expression through movement
- To craft performance studies collaboratively, on oneself, and on other dancers.
- To consider and discuss the concepts, choices, and craft of other dance makers and performers.
- To reflect, assess, and formulate critical response of one's own work and the work of the course community

COURSE FORMAT

We must all take responsibility to carefully read and understand [Carthage Community COVID-19](#) updates.

Unless and until Carthage College decides to pivot to remote learning, the expectation is that this course will be delivered and attended in-person. Please see the Attendance Policy below.

As we follow the COVID guidelines set forward by the college, extenuating circumstances may require remote participation. In such cases, students will be able to progress with the class remotely via Zoom (link can be accessed via Schoology). Conversely, I may need to lead the class remotely, should the same occur to me.

Please read and follow College community instructions on [symptom monitoring](#). Additionally, you will find instructions and guidance on Remote Dance Spaces below.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Communication

I will communicate with you via email. To schedule a meeting with me or get in contact with me, please use my Carthage email address (spottinger@carthage.edu). I will respond within 24 hours during the week.

Learning Accessibility Services

Carthage College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to your disability (including mental health, learning disorders and chronic medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, you also need to register with Diane Schowalter in Learning Accessibility Services (dschowalter1@carthage.edu).

Attendance

Attendance is essential to course participation and will be documented at the beginning of each class for all participants, including those participating remotely. I expect all students to stay present and attentive until class ends at 1:25. Please refer to the attached Topical Outline for a list of scheduled class sessions.

In this course, we will follow the Department of Theatre Attendance Policy (Attached).

Absences

An absence counts as any missed session (in-person or remote).

With prior communication, students in this course will be allowed **two** excused absences, without penalty, provided any and all missed work is submitted by the next class meeting.

Absences beyond the two allowed and/or absences without prior communication, will lower the student's overall grade incrementally and *will not* be eligible for make-up work. This applies to any additional graded assignments missed as a result of the absence.

Please refer to the Department of Theatre Attendance Policy to further understand how course absences can affect your overall course grade.

Absence Communication

Absences must be communicated using the Carthage email listed above *prior to the missed class session*. Absences that preclude prior notification will require timely substantiation.

Absences resulting from COVID-19 health and safety protocols must *also* be communicated via the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to seek support from the [Health and Counselling](#) Center and report positive COVID cases to the DOS in order to generate official communication regarding such absences.

If you must miss multiple classes for illness or an emergency, you are strongly advised to contact me and the Dean of Students as soon as possible.

Promptness and Tardies

Please arrive on time and, when applicable, dressed and ready to dance. Students who arrive after attendance has been taken are tardy and must see the instructor at the end of class to confirm attendance. Students who arrive significantly late for class or who are not properly dressed may not be permitted to dance. If you are having trouble getting to class on-time, please communicate with me as early as possible.

Tardiness will affect your Participation grade. Additionally, the Department of Theatre policy states that six tardies = one *unexcused* absence.

Injuries

We will address safe practices, efficient patterning, and ways to modify movements for varying abilities. I expect everyone to work to their fullest ability while staying responsible for their own body. If something does not work for your body, please modify the movement. Let me know if you would like help figuring out a modification. If you think you might be injured, stop dancing immediately, inform the instructor and take notes/complete observation form. Immediately apply RICE – Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation.

Early communication regarding injuries is crucial and expected.

Observing Class

In some cases, a student may need to observe class. In such cases, students must submit a Class Observation Form (available on Schoology).

Students needing to sit out more than **twice** during the course will be expected to provide timely and substantiated communication regarding this need, which may include documentation and may still result in the student needing to withdraw from the course without penalty.

Remote Dance Spaces

While the method of instruction for this course is in-person, there may still be circumstances that require remote participation. For those circumstances, I continue to recommend that students establish a home dance space. I recommend having a space that is at least 6 feet by 8 feet. Wood floors are ideal. Choose a space with minimal distractions and wait until after class to check emails, texts, or social media. Allow time to pre-set your laptop, check your camera angle, and have whatever you need for the floor you are dancing on (socks, sneakers, yoga mat, etc.). Please note that many floors are not suitable for jumps and turns. We will all have to be mindful of similar limitations along the way.

To participate virtually, you will need a computer or tablet. I also recommend Bluetooth earbuds to help you hear me better without cords getting in the way of your dancing. Set up your device so that I can see your **full body** in the shot, which means that you will need a little distance between you and the camera. I suggest a clip-on wide-angle lens (made for phones) if you cannot get your whole body in the camera frame. Make sure all technology is fully charged ahead of time.

Course Attire

For movability and safety, please:

- Wear a well-fitting surgical face mask for the entire class.
- Wear fitted, flexible clothing that enables movement. This can include leotards, fitted t-shirts or tank tops, tights, leggings, joggers, and athletic shorts. Avoid stiff or baggy clothing, such as jeans or a long skirt, as they can impede movement
- Shoes are not required for the movement work in this course, but ballet and/or jazz slippers are permitted. Students may also wear 100% COTTON socks. *Socks with synthetic fibers are dangerously slippery.
- Secure long hair away from face
- Remove dangling jewelry
- Turn phone and watch notifications off
- No gum, candy, or other food
- Warm-up clothing layered over dance attire is also recommended

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Non-Discrimination

In this course, we will adhere to the [The Carthage Community Code](#) on Non-discrimination.

We collectively affirm that students, faculty, and staff have a right to be free from racial, sexual and physical disability discrimination in the form of harassment by any member of the college community.

If you think that you have been subjected to sexual harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct, please contact Annette Duncan, Title IX Coordinator, Lenz Hall 208, 262-551-5883, aduncan@carthage.edu.

Preferred Name and Gender Pronouns

I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Health and Counseling Center (HCC)

The Health and Counseling Center (HCC) supports students by addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All services are free and confidential and are available to currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students. Health services include the assessment and treatment of minor illness and injury. Diagnostic testing, complimentary over-the-counter medications, and referrals to off-campus providers are all available. Our licensed counselors help students with challenges that can be resolved with short-term, solution-focused counseling. Some topics discussed during counseling include depression and anxiety, traumatic experiences, gender and sexuality, relationship concerns, stress management, and academic challenges. More details - including info about appointments - can be found at carthage.edu/health-counseling.

[Uwill](#) is a free teletherapy platform for Carthage students. Uwill connects students with licensed therapists from all 50 states. Support is available in a variety of formats -- video, chat, messaging, or phone. Counselors are available nights, weekends, and during holidays. Access is quick and easy: app.uwill.com.

HCC Hours and Location

TARC 2240 / 262-551-5710
M-F 8:30-4:00

Health Services (in-person): Call to schedule a same-day appointment; walk-ins accepted

Counseling Services (in-person): Call to schedule an appointment; walk-ins accepted M-F 11:30-1:00

**Services, hours, and walk-in availability are subject to change*

Additional Info

- Nurse Practitioner: Wednesdays 2pm-4pm (appointment required; NP services are provided by a third party and billed to student's insurance)
- HCC is a Title IX confidential resource for students.
- COVID-19 Testing is available for students with signs or symptoms of illness. Please call to be screened and to schedule a testing time.

PLEASE NOTE: Carthage's vaccine requirement and associated testing is not administered by HCC. Visit the [COVID-19 Update Page](#) for more information.

Academic Conduct

The work that you will submit in this course will be both written and movement-based. Please understand that *all* forms of work submitted in this course are subject to [Carthage's Academic Honesty Code](#)

As you prepare to submit work in this class, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification about original content, crediting sources, or if it's okay, for example, to create and submit the same movement study for two different classes.

Violations of academic integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, or other academic misconduct, as stated in the student handbook are very serious and are subject to [disciplinary action](#)

COURSE TOOLS

Schoology

To be successful in this course, you will need to log into Schoology to access readings and submit written assignments. Here is how:

1. Go to [Carthage College](#)
2. In the upper right hand corner, click on the drop down menu, " Campus Tools"
3. Select One Login
4. Sign in with your username, email password, then your second authentication
5. Choose Schoology from the Carthage Apps page
6. Select this course from your assigned courses

*All course materials and assignments are posted on Schoology

*Grades will be posted in the Schoology Gradebook

Acclaim

Additionally, we will be using the ACCLAIM video platform for submitting movement assignments remotely. ACCLAIM provides a secure space for us to post video content from class, or for movement assignments while adding time-stamped comments.

To sign up for ACCLAIM, please go to the following link and follow the prompts provided:

https://app.getacclaim.com/cls_TKAbe6aoML/

*We will be using ACCLAIM for any asynchronous movement assignments.

COURSE WORK

Grade Scale

A+ = 97	C+ = 77
A = 93	C = 73
A- = 90	C- = 70
B+ = 87	D+ = 67
B = 83	D = 63
B- = 80	D- = 60

Participation - 30%

Participation grades are based on consistency in the following criteria: (1) Demonstrated Improvement (2) Promptness (3) Preparedness (4) Presence (5) Course Discourse

Participation Grades will be calculated twice: halfway through the course and at the end of the semester. Please reference the Participation Rubric on Schoology to more fully understand the course Participation criteria.

Movement Studies – 15%

Weekly movement studies must be clearly set, repeatable, and ready for discussion when they are performed. Studies will be assessed on how well the assigned elements were fulfilled and whether or not the central concept of the particular study is clear (missed performances are subject to attendance policy).

Written Work – 15%

Written work encompasses informal reflections that will address topics relevant to the choreographic process. Written reflections will be submitted as informal forum posts.

Midterm – 20%

Students will continue to develop one choreographic study of their choosing for their Midterm. Studies must meet a minimum 2 ½ minute time limit and should not exceed 5 minutes.

Final – 20%

Students will continue to develop one additional class study of their choosing. Final Studies must meet a minimum 3 ½ minute time limit and should not exceed 5 minutes. Final Studies can be created on other dancers and can be solos, or group works.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

An assignment not submitted by the deadline may be submitted late for partial credit. Exceptions for deadlines need to be requested one-on-one with the instructor via email.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Week	Date	Deadlines/Activities
1: Introductions/Moving	F February 4	
2. Making	M February 7	
	F February 11	Written Post #1; Movement Study #1
3. Collaborating	M February 14	
	F February 18	Movement Study #2
4. Moving	M February 21	
	F February 25	Movement Study #3
5. Making	M February 28	
	F March 4	Written Post #2; Movement Study #4
6: Independent Work	M March 7	Work Day
	F March 11	Work Day
SPRING BREAK	M March 14	
	F March 18	
8: Midterm	M March 21	Midterm Presentations
	F March 25	Midterm Presentations
9: Collaborating	M March 28	
	F April 1	Movement Study #5
*Guest Artist: Karlies Kelley Vedula	Sunday, April 3	Afrolatin Class
10: Moving	M April 4	
	F April 8	Written Post #3; Movement Study #6
11 – 12: Making	M April 11	
	F April 15	EASTER BREAK
	M April 18	EASTER BREAK
	F April 22	Movement Study #7
13: Collaborating	M April 25	
	F April 29	Written Post #4; Movement Study #8
14: Moving/Independent Work	M May 2	
	F May 6	Work Day
15: Independent Work/	M May 9	Work Day
	F May 13	Final Study Feedback
Final Presentation	M May 16: 10:30 – 12:30	

Criteria	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Work
Demonstrated Improvement: Based on improvement toward course learning objectives				
Promptness: Student is consistently on time				
Preparedness: Student is consistently prepared for class (appropriate attire, hair; Student is informed & ready to discuss course work; ready to present movement assignments, etc.)				
Presence: Consistent contribution to a safe and respectful learning environment (attentiveness; understanding how to begin and end exercises; respectful communication with instructor and peers)				
Course Discourse: Quality and consistency of course discourse, including class discussions, peer feedback, online posts, and peer comments				

CLASS OBSERVATION FORM #1

Name:

Class:

Date:

Reason for sitting out:

Instructions: (1) Complete *four* of the following questions and attach form to your class notes (2) Consider moving to another place in the room as you complete your observation

1. Mention ***three*** of the teacher's general or individual feedback comments. How does this feedback apply to you?
2. Do you see students responding to the teacher's feedback? Explain what you see.
3. Are there any students in this class who are inspiring you? Why, specifically?
4. Pay attention to dancers' intent behind their movements. Are the dancers clear about how and where they are moving in space? Do you see clear rhythmic expression in relationship to the music? Are there clear attitudes toward weight (strength vs. lightness), time (sustained vs. quick), and space (direct vs. indirect)?
5. Discuss two main ideas covered in today's lesson and summarize what you have learned by observing this class.

CLASS OBSERVATION FORM #1

Name:

Class:

Date:

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1. Mention ***three*** of the teacher's general or individual feedback comments. How does this feedback apply to you?
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5. Discuss two main ideas covered in today's lesson and summarize what you have learned by observing this class.

Attendance Policies

NOTE: as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect our work, the faculty are committed to accommodating any unavoidable absences that may occur as a result. The policies below act as our general guidelines, but we recognize that allowances may need to be made to them. Please contact your instructors and discuss specific accommodations that may need to be made.

Factors that will help us work through potential extended absences:

- Communicating with the instructor: don't disappear! Make sure you let your instructors know if something is going on.
- Keeping up with schoolwork as much as possible: even if you are unable to attend a class, you must make every effort to check with classmates and the instructor to find out what work is due and arrange to turn it in at a later date.

It is the expectation of the department that all students will attend all scheduled classes. The experiential nature of our work means that missing a class means that you may be missing experiences that simply can't be duplicated or repeated. However, there are times when an absence is unavoidable. The department has developed an attendance policy to guide its students and instructors on how to deal with absences.

Departmental Attendance Policy

Students are allowed a certain number of excused absences for emergency use during the course of the semester.

Course Format	Maximum Number of Excused Absences Allowed
Meets 3 times a week	3
Meets twice a week	2
Meets once a week	1
January Term	1

- Excused absences will not affect the student's grade as long as the student completes any and all missed work by the next class period in addition to any regular course work assigned for that period.
- Missed work due to excused absence must be completed in order to receive a final grade at the end of the semester.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact a classmate (not the instructor) to find out about missed work, get handouts, etc.

In order to qualify for an excused absence, students **MUST** notify the instructor of the absence **PRIOR TO CLASS** via email or at their office phone extension. Emergencies that preclude you from notifying prior to class will require written documentation as soon as possible after the event.

Unexcused Absences:

- Absences without prior notification or later documentation will be considered unexcused.
- Additionally, further absences beyond the limits stated above will be considered unexcused absences (unless they are part of a documented extended illness or injury as stated below).
- Each unexcused absence will result in the student's final grade being lowered the equivalent of one grade increment (i.e., if the student has an "A" in the class, one unexcused absence will reduce it to an "A-").
- If a student is absent without excuse for any theatre class more than three times, they will automatically fail that class.

Tardies:

Excessive tardiness will also impact the student's overall grade.

- 1-5 minutes: One tardy
- 5-10 minutes: Two tardies

- 10-15 minutes: Three tardies
- Six tardies is the equivalent of one unexcused absence.

Absent During Quizzes and Exams:

The theatre department does not generally allow for make-up exams. If the student is absent for any type of assessment (i.e. a performance exam, final exam, test, or quiz) there will be no make-up exam given except in special circumstances as outlined below.

Absences Qualifying for Make-Up Exams:

The following circumstances will allow for the granting of a make-up exam:

- Documented medical issues, extended illness, injury, personal or family emergency confirmed by a healthcare professional and/or the Dean of Students office.
- College sanctioned activities, such as athletics, field trips and conferences. These require advance written documentation from the faculty or college sponsor. Students are responsible for obtaining this advance documentation and arranging in advance for submission of missed work or taking of missed exams.