

Dance and Drama

FINE ARTS DIVISION

Faculty

Julie A. Brodie

Assistant Professor of Dance

Balinda J. Craig-Quijada

Associate Professor of Dance

Daniel Elihu Kramer

Assistant Professor of Drama

(on leave, second semester)

Wendy MacLeod

James E. Michael Playwright-in-

Residence

Harlene Marley

Professor Emerita of Drama

Margaret S. Patton

Professor Emerita of Dance

Andrew Reinert

Associate Professor of Drama

Jonathan E. Tazewell

***Chair, Associate Professor of
Drama***

Thomas S. Turgeon

Professor of Drama

The arts of the drama, the dance, and the film, past and present, are the concern of the Department of Dance and Drama. The central objects of our study are the play, the film, and the dance, and the ways they are brought to life before an audience. Students learn by doing the jobs of the artists who collaborate to make plays, dances, and films. Some courses concentrate on the arts as they were performed in their historical context; others explore in depth the work of the artists: the playwright, screenwriter, choreographer, actor, dancer, director, and designer. Almost all courses require, in conjunction with reading and critical writing,

the performance of problems and exercises. Students are encouraged to pursue independent work in either historical and critical research or in creative activity. All courses in the department are open to every student in the College; certain courses have prerequisites noted in the course descriptions.

New Students

DANC 105Y-106Y and DRAM 111Y-112Y, designated by a ♦ symbol, are considered especially appropriate introductory courses for first-year or upperclass students new to the department. As the foundation on which the other coursework in the department is built, these courses are recommended to those students considering majors in the department. They are also recommended for other students wishing to diversify their course of study by fulfilling distribution requirements in the fine arts. The major in dance and drama is normally open to students whose performance in DRAM 111Y-112Y or DANC 105Y-106 has been good.

Requirements for the Major

Students majoring in the department may emphasize either theater or dance, but in either case must fulfill the department's minimum requirements, distributed as follows:

Emphasis in Theater (5.5 units):

- DRAM 110 (audit)
- DRAM 111Y-112Y (1 unit)
- DRAM 213 (.5 unit)
- 1.5 units drawn from DRAM 220 through 337
- 1 unit drawn from DRAM 351 through 357
- 1 unit drawn from other course offerings in the department
- DRAM 493 or 494 (.5 unit)

Emphasis in Dance (5.5 units):

- DANC 105Y-106Y (1 unit)
- DANC 215 (.5 unit)
- DANC 227 (.5 unit)
- DANC 228 (.5 unit)
- .5 unit drawn from DRAM 220 through 337
- DANC 220 (.5 unit)
- DANC 222 (.5 unit)
- DANC 493 or 494 (.5 unit)
- 1 unit of dance technique

The Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise comprises three parts: a project, an oral discussion of the project, and a written examination. Each senior major, with the advice and consent of the department's faculty, designs a senior project, a major piece of creative or scholarly work. The student will initiate the work and collaborate with others to see it through to completion, all with guidance from one or more faculty members. When the work is finished, the student and department faculty members will discuss the preparation and choices that shaped the project. At the end of the year, every senior major will complete a six-hour written examination. The awarding of "distinction" or, in the case of honors candidates, the degree with honors is based on the student's performance on all three parts of the exercise.

Honors

Students interested in reading for honors must begin during the junior year. In the Department of Dance and Drama, honors is a two-year process. All students reading for honors in this department are required to read both for junior honors and for senior honors.

To apply, the student will present a plan for a scholarly or artistic project in the subjects of dance or drama to the department faculty before the first or second semesters of the junior year. This project will be designed to take not less than 1 unit, and not more than 1.5 units, of tutorial

study. The faculty will evaluate this proposal in terms of its originality and ambition, its intrinsic and pedagogical value, and its practical feasibility.

Students interested in becoming honors candidates in dance and drama should speak with their advisor or the department chair.

Requirements for the Minor in Dance

The following courses are required for a minor in dance (3.5 units):

- DANC 105Y-106Y (1 unit)
- .5 unit of dance technique
- DANC 215 (.5 unit)
- DANC 227 (.5 unit)
- Choose 2 of the following 3 courses : DANC 220, 222, or 228 (1 unit)

Year Courses

Introduction to the Dance

DANC 105Y-106Y (1 unit)
Craig-Quijada

Introduction to the Dance is a one-year survey course designed to introduce dance as a performing art form, historically as well as in practice, exploring how dance helps shape and is shaped by cultural values. The format is lecture and discussion, supplemented by readings, videos, and movement experiences. The first semester begins by looking at court dances of Africa, Japan, and France, then tracks the development of dance as a performing art in Europe and the United States from the Renaissance to the present, by identifying important stylistic trends and the works of major contributors to the field. While the focus is Western concert dance, we also examine some dance phenomena cross-culturally in order to broaden students' understanding of dance and movement and their relationship to cultural beliefs and practices.

The second semester's work continues to chart the historical development of concert dance, while beginning to explore student choreography. Assignments include short

movement studies composed by students to explore various aspects of the choreographic process and to embody significant trends in the evolution of dance making. DANC 105Y-106Y students must also enroll in a dance technique course (DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 309) during one or both semesters. Enrollment limited.

Introduction to the Theater

DRAM 111Y-112Y (1 unit)
Staff

This course examines how theater differs from other arts and how theatrical artists go about their jobs of bringing a play to life on stage. This examination is accomplished through a series of performance or creative assignments. The class is divided into four sections; two meet in the morning and two in the afternoon. Plays, problems, and exercises are performed and discussed in the sectional meetings; about every other week, sections are combined for lectures and demonstrations.

In the first semester, the course explores what a play is and how it is structured. Assignments consist of a series of playwriting problems, which students perform in class. In the second semester, students spend about six weeks studying the work of the designer and about six weeks studying the work of the actor. In both cases, the studies are carried out by a series of problems presented or performed in class by students working in teams. In addition, students read at least five plays and a series of essays about the theory and practice of the theater, complete a series of brief written assignments, and take written examinations. As a culmination of the work of both semesters, each student writes, directs, and presents to the class a short, ten-minute play, working with fellow students.

Any student with a general interest in the theater will find this a challenging course, regardless of previous experience. Because this course is an introduction to the arts of the theater, it has no prerequisite, but it is a prerequisite to many of the other courses in the department. Enrollment limited.

The Play: Playwriting and Dramatic Theory

DRAM 331Y-332Y (1 unit)
MacLeod

In this course, the student is given weekly exercises exploring dialogue, exposition, autobiography, writing for the opposite gender, and prismatic structure. Using an Aristotelian vocabulary, the class discusses the resulting short plays in a group critique, after which they are rewritten. Students will finish the first semester with a collection of short plays that can later be developed into longer works. In the second semester, students will complete a one-act play, which will be performed as a staged reading. Students will keep a writer's notebook, do in-class exercises, and read a variety of plays relevant to their weekly assignments, by playwrights such as: Pinter, Mamet, Guare, Albee, Martin McDonagh, Conor McPherson, Paula Vogel, David Ives, and Melissa James Gibson. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

First-Semester Courses

Dance Technique

DANC 108, 208, 209, and 309
(.25 unit)

Concurrent enrollment in dance technique is required for DANC 105Y-106Y, 227 and 228.

Beginning Modern Dance

DANC 108 (.25 unit)
Staff

This course's focus is on modern dance technique for the beginning-level student. During the semester, self expression through movement will be explored through exercises emphasizing the basic concepts of breath, mobilizing weight, and improvisation. The course involves intensive movement participation; however, there is no stress placed on public performance. No prior experience is necessary. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

Intermediate Modern Technique

DANC 208 (.25 unit)
Brodie

Intermediate Modern Technique furthers the work of the beginning-level course with increased application of movement principles established by creative artists and teachers from the American and European contemporary dance tradition. Movement fundamentals from other broad-based techniques and body therapies are also included. No prerequisite; however, permission of the instructor may be necessary if the student has no prior experience.

Intermediate Ballet Technique

DANC 209 (.25 unit)
Brodie

Intermediate Ballet Technique furthers the work of the beginning-level course with a more in-depth application of the ballet vocabulary and style. Prerequisite: DANC 109 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

Advanced Modern Dance Technique

DANC 309 (.25 unit)
Craig-Quijada

Advanced technique work in contemporary dance builds upon principles of movement established at the beginning and intermediate levels. In-depth exploration of floor work, improvisation, somatic practices, and a variety of postmodern styles promotes artistry, efficiency of movement, and integrated strength. Prerequisites: DANC 208 or permission of instructor.

The Dance: Production and Performance

DANC 110 (audit)
Brodie, Craig-Quijada, staff

The Fall and Spring Dance Concerts give dancers, choreographers, and designers an opportunity to present their work in concert. Advised and directed by dance faculty members and guest artists, these concerts are the culmination of one or two semesters of preparation, rehearsals, and regularly scheduled showings of work-in-progress.

The Fall Dance Concert: In

order for students to choreograph for the Fall Dance Concert, students must be enrolled in or have successfully completed DANC 227 or 228. (Please note: DANC 110 audit will be awarded to those dancers, choreographers, and production personnel whose work exhibited high standards.) Choreography proposals must be submitted to the dance faculty by the date announced early each fall semester. Each choreographer then shows the work-in-progress for final selection by the dance faculty. Spring Dance Concert choreographers are selected by the dance faculty.

Auditions to dance in either concert are held at the beginning of each semester. All dancers who perform in either concert are required to participate in Dance Technique (DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 309). Designers are recommended by the design faculty of the Department of Dance and Drama.

The Play: Production and Performance

DRAM 110 (audit)
Staff

The work of DRAM 110 involves the realization in the theater of the work of an important playwright, as expressed in the text for a particular play. Problems in textual analysis, historical research, and the creation of a production lead, by way of independent and cooperative activity involving acting, design, and special problems, to public performance before an audience. Note: Students who, in the judgment of the instructional and directional staff, have made significant creative contributions to the effectiveness of the production will have "audit" indicated on their academic record.

History of the Western Theater

DRAM 213 (.5 unit)
Turgeon

This course presents a historical study of Western theater from its origins to the present time. The course will examine the evolution of the physical theater structure and production elements of each period, as well as the relationship between each style

and its historical context. The format will include lecture and discussion, readings, and projects. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Enrollment limited.

Elements of Theater, Film, and Dance Art (DANC, DRAM 218 through 337)

These courses provide a close examination of several aspects of film, theater, and dance arts: acting, writing, choreography, directing, and design. Reading, discussion, problem solving, and laboratory exercises will increase the student's understanding of the artistic experience and development of skills in the arts of theater, film, and dance. DANC 105Y-106Y or DRAM 111Y-112Y is the minimum prerequisite for all of these courses. Certain courses have additional prerequisites as noted below.

Dance Kinesiology

DANC 222 (.5 unit)
Brodie

This course studies the science of movement as it relates to dance. Basic anatomy and physiology, the physics of dance, and the mind-body connection responsible for producing and controlling movement are explored to provide students with a deeper understanding of the structure and function of the human body. Lectures, discussions, and movement labs focus on practical analysis and application of material in order to increase movement efficiency, with the ultimate goal of enhancing performance and preventing injury. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

The Actor

DRAM 222 (.5 unit)
Kramer

Through the rehearsal and performance of various scenes, students will explore the nature of the actor's contribution to the theater. Work will include performance exercises, readings, and written assignments. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

The Scene Designer

DRAM 223 (.5 unit)

Staff

Working from varied scripts, students will move from a study of the visual choices implicit in the text to the process of designing scenery. The work of the course places an emphasis on collaboration and includes written assignments, drafting, sketching, and model building. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

The Costume Designer

DRAM 224 (.5 unit)

Reinert

This course presents an introduction to the costume designer's creative process. Through a series of projects, students will explore the relation of the costume to the character, the plot, the work of the director, the actor, and the other designers. Projects involve drawing, painting, collage, writing, and research. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

The Choreographer I

DANC 227 (.5 unit)

Craig-Quijada

The theory and practice of making dances is the focus of the choreographer. The fundamentals of composing both solo and group works are presented through the exploration of dance dynamics, improvisation, and movement problem-solving. Work will include movement studies, presentations, readings, and discussions. Group preparation time outside of class for movement studies is required. Prerequisite: DANC 105Y-106Y (or concurrent enrollment in 105Y-106Y) or permission of instructor. Enrollment in DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 309 is required. Enrollment limited.

The Screenwriter

DRAM 335 (.5 unit)

Tazewell

This course will explore what is particular about writing for the screen. Through weekly writing assignments, students study the form and structure of the three-act feature film. Students will draw from their personal stories

and develop these into cinematic dramatizations. During the semester, each student will work toward a complete two-hour (120-page) screenplay. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment Limited.

The Stage and Its Plays (DRAM 351 through 357)

These courses provide a study, in terms of the theater, of selected plays of a period of notable dramatic achievement or the work of an important playwright. Emphasis, by means of problems and exercises, is on the theatrical qualities of the plays and their staging. Sophomore standing is the minimum requirement for all of these courses. Certain courses have additional prerequisites as noted below.

The English Renaissance Theater

DRAM 352 (.5 unit)

Kramer

This course will explore the plays and theatrical practice of the English renaissance. Readings will be drawn from the plays of Marlowe, Jonson, Middleton, Webster, and their contemporaries. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Enrollment limited.

Junior Honors

DANC or DRAM 397 (.5 unit)

Staff

Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

Individual Study

DANC or DRAM 493 (.5 unit)

Staff

Students may undertake a project involving either creative activity leading to a major piece of work in one of the aspects of theater or dance art, or reading and scholarly research on a critical or historical subject culminating in a long paper. The course is intended primarily for the student majoring in dance or drama who is engaged in the preparation of a thesis as part of the Senior Exercise. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

Senior Honors

DANC or DRAM 497 (.5 unit)

Staff

Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

Second-Semester Courses**Beginning Dance**

DANC 107 (.25 unit)

Staff

This course introduces movement concepts for the beginning-level student in one particular form of dance. The style being offered will vary each semester, depending on adjunct faculty availability, but may include jazz dance, world dance, or tap dance. The specific classes will be determined at the beginning of each academic year. The course involves intensive movement participation; however, there is no stress placed on public performance. No prior experience is necessary. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

Intermediate Modern Technique

DANC 208 (.25 unit)

Craig-Quijada

See first-semester course description.

Intermediate Ballet Technique

DANC 209 (.25 unit)

Brodie

See first-semester course description.

Advanced Modern Dance Technique

DANC 309 (.25 unit)

Brodie

See first semester course description.

The Dance: Production and Performance

DANC 110 (audit)

Brodie, Craig-Quijada, staff

The Spring Dance Concert: In order for students to choreograph for the Spring Dance Concert, they must be enrolled in or have successfully completed DANC 227 or 228. Students who have choreographed for the Fall Dance Concert will be given priority. Dance faculty will announce the selected student choreographers early

in the spring semester. The same selection process is followed for both Fall and Spring Dance Concerts. See first semester course description for more detailed information.

The Play: Production and Performance

DRAM 110 (.5 unit)
Staff

See first semester course description.

The History of Clothing and Fashion

DRAM 216 (.5 unit)
Reinert

This course surveys the history of Western clothing and fashion from the ancient world to the present day. Work will include papers, oral presentations, lectures, and discussion. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Enrollment limited.

Elements of Theater, Film, and Dance Art (DANC, DRAM 220 through 337)

These courses provide a close examination of several aspects of film, theater, and dance arts: acting, writing, choreography, directing, and design. Reading, discussion, problem solving, and laboratory exercises will increase students' understanding of the artistic experience and develop their skills in the arts of theater, film, and dance. DANC 105Y-106Y or DRAM 111Y-112Y is the minimum prerequisite for all of these courses. Certain courses have additional prerequisites as noted below.

The Lighting Designer

DRAM 225 (.5 unit)
Staff

This course introduces students to the properties of light and electricity, and explores the creative process of designing light for the theater, with an emphasis on collaboration. Work includes readings, written assignments, research, drafting, lectures and discussions, laboratory sessions, and design projects. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

Character Analysis

DRAM 326 (.5 unit)
Turgeon

This course presents a study of the actor's methods of analysis of a text and development of a completed characterization. Each student will rehearse and present a series of scenes in various stages of development, which will lead to a complete understanding of a major role from dramatic literature. Prerequisite: DRAM 222. Enrollment limited.

Acting and Directing for the Camera

DRAM 336 (.5 unit)
Tazewell

This course will focus on the understanding of cinema through the practical application of production and post-production techniques. Students will learn the art of telling a story on screen by taking on the roles of the major positions in a film production, including producer, director, actor, cinematographer, and editor. Prerequisite: DRAM 111Y-112Y. Enrollment limited.

The Stage and Its Plays (DRAM 351 through 357)

These courses provide a study, in terms of the theater, of selected plays of a period of notable dramatic achievement or the work of an important playwright. Emphasis, by means of problems and exercises, is on the theatrical qualities of the plays and their staging. Sophomore standing is the minimum requirement for all of these courses. Certain courses have additional prerequisites as noted below.

Special Topic: Contemporary British Drama

DRAM 392 (.5 unit)
MacLeod, Turgeon

This course will focus on contemporary British plays, from Harold Pinter to contemporary Irish and Anglo-Irish playwrights, like Conor McPherson (*The Weir*) and Martin McDonagh (*Pillowman*), whose work has been seen recently on Broadway. The course will involve close

analysis of texts and will be relevant to playwrights, directors, actors, designers and the general student who is interested in learning how to read a play. There will be lectures and discussions, where the students will be asked to fully imagine the plays in performance. We will be reading both comic and dramatic playwrights, including Tom Stoppard, David Hare, Caryl Churchill, Alan Ayckbourn, and Patrick Marber (*Closer*). The coursework will involve both short papers and exams. Majors may count this course toward the 1 unit to be drawn from DRAM 351 through 357. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Enrollment limited.

Junior Honors

DANC or DRAM 398 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

Individual Study

DANC or DRAM 494 (.5 unit)
Staff

Students may undertake a project involving either creative activity leading to a major piece of work in one of the aspects of theater or dance art, or reading and scholarly research on a critical or historical subject culminating in a long paper. The course is intended primarily for the student majoring in dance or drama who is engaged in the preparation of a thesis as part of the final integrating exercise. Prerequisites: permission of department chair.

Senior Honors

DANC or DRAM 498 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

The following courses may be offered in 2007-08:

DANC 215 Contemporary Dance History
DANC 220 Dance Labanotation
DANC 228 The Choreographer II

DRAM 213 History of the Western
Theater

DRAM 218 Introduction to Film

DRAM 221 The Director

DRAM 333 Advanced Playwriting
Workshop

DRAM 334 Scene Painting

DRAM 337 Shakespearean Scene
Study

DRAM 351 Classical Theater

DRAM 355 The Modern Theater

DRAM 357 Theater of the African
Diaspora

DRAM, DANC 397, 398 Junior
Honors

DRAM, DANC 497, 498 Senior
Honors