

# Dance and Drama

## *Fine Arts Division*

The arts of drama, dance, and film, past and present, are the concern of the Department of Dance and Drama. The central objects of our study are the play, the dance, and the film, 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, designer, and filmmaker. Almost all courses require, in conjunction with reading and critical writing, the performance of problems and exercises. Students are encouraged to pursue independent work either in 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.

## FACULTY

**Daniel Elihu Kramer**, Chair, Associate Professor of Drama

**Julie A. Brodie**, Associate Professor of Dance (on leave)

**Balinda J. Craig-Quijada**, Associate Professor of Dance

**Kora Radella Feller**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Drama

**Martine K. Green**, Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation Teaching Fellow

**Robin Amy Gordon**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Drama

**Wendy MacLeod**, James E. Michael Playwright-in-Residence

**Andrew Reinert**, Associate Professor of Drama

**Jonathan E. Tazewell**, Thomas S. Turgeon Associate Professor of Drama

**Rebecca E. Wolf**, Assistant Professor of Drama

## EMERITUS FACULTY

**Harlene Marley**, Professor Emerita of Drama

**Margaret S. Patton**, Professor Emerita of Dance

**Thomas S. Turgeon**, Professor Emeritus of Drama

**NEW STUDENTS**

DANC 105 and DRAM 111 are considered especially appropriate introductory courses for first-year students 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 111 or DANC 105 has been good.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR**

Students majoring in the department may emphasize either theater or dance. Students interested in film should follow the major for theater. In either case, students must fulfill the department's minimum requirements, distributed as follows:

**Emphasis in Theater (5.5 units):**

- DRAM 110 (audit)
- DRAM 111 (.5 unit)
- DRAM 213 (.5 unit)
- 1.5 units drawn from Elements of Film and Theater Art (DRAM 221 through 236 and DRAM 321 through 336)

These courses provide a close examination of several aspects of film and theater arts: acting, writing, 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 film and theater.

- 1 unit drawn from The Stage and Its Plays (DRAM 251 through 257)

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.

- 1.5 units drawn from other course offerings in the department
- DRAM 493 (.5 unit)

**Emphasis in Dance (5.5 units):**

- DANC 105 (.5 unit)
- DANC 215 (.5 unit)
- DANC 220 (.5 unit)
- DANC 227 (.5 unit)
- DANC 228 (.5 unit)
- .5 unit drawn from DRAM 220 through 337
- DANC 322 (.5 unit)
- DANC 493 (.5 unit)
- 1 unit of dance technique

**THE SENIOR EXERCISE**

The Senior Exercise has 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. The faculty guidance will take the form of an independent study, DANC or DRAM 493, for which the student will receive course credit and a grade. 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" 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 the department are required to complete both junior honors and senior honors.

To be eligible to read for honors in dance and drama, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be a student in good standing who can offer, at the time of application, a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 or better within the major throughout the course of study.
2. The applicant is limited to a single major. Because of the extensive nature of the projects, no double majors will be allowed to read for honors in drama.
3. The candidate for honors will be expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 or better within the major throughout the course of study.

To apply, the student will present a plan for a scholarly or artistic project in the subject 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 105 (.5 unit)
- .5 unit of dance technique
- DANC 215 (.5 unit)
- DANC 227 (.5 unit)
- Choose 2 of the following 3 courses : DANC 220, 228, and 322 (1 unit)

## DANCE COURSES

### DANC 105 Introduction to the Dance

*Credit: .5 unit*

Introduction to the Dance is a one-semester survey course designed to introduce dance as a performing art form, historically as well as in practice, and to explore how dance as a cultural phenomenon helps shape and is shaped by cultural values. This course will track the development of dance as a performing art in Europe and in the U.S. from the Renaissance to the 1950s, by identifying important stylistic trends and the works of major contributors to the field. While the focus of this class is to look at western concert dance as a performing art, we will also examine some dance phenomena cross-culturally in order to broaden our understanding of dance and movement and their relationship to cultural beliefs and practices and to the history of ideas. The study of dance history provides a lens for exploring the world, its people, and their cultures. Assignments include written work and short movement studies composed by students to explore various aspects of the choreographic process and to embody significant trends in the evolution of dancemaking. Corequisite: DANC 105 students must also enroll in a dance technique course (DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 308) during one or both semesters.

### DANC 107 Beginning Dance Fundamentals

*Credit: .25 unit*

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.

### DANC 108 Beginning Modern Dance

*Credit: .25 unit*

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.

### DANC 109 Beginning Ballet Dance

*Credit: .25 unit*

The ballet style and movement vocabulary are presented in this technique course for the beginning-level student. During the semester, students will be introduced to the fundamental components of ballet technique, including line, position, and artistry, with a focus on correct body mechanics. The course involves intensive movement partic-

ipation; however, there is no stress placed on public performance. No prior experience is necessary. No prerequisite.

### DANC 110 The Dance: Production and Performance

*Credit: 0 units*

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. *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. 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 a dance technique course (DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 308). Designers are recommended by the design faculty of the Department of Dance and Drama.

### DANC 208 Intermediate Modern Technique

*Credit: .25 unit*

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.

### DANC 209 Intermediate Ballet Technique

*Credit: .25 unit*

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.

### DANC 215 Contemporary Dance History

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course investigates the development of dance as a performing art in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course examines major trends that influence dancemaking—which include technology, globalization, and

collaboration—by observing the work of principal artists. This course investigates aesthetic points of view, beliefs, and assumptions inherent in dance practice, dance criticism, and history writing. Prerequisite: DANC 105.

### **DANC 220 Dance Labanotation**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course covers the basic concepts and skills necessary for reading and writing Labanotation, a system for recording movement in symbolic form. Studio work will emphasize re-creating and performing dances from written scores in addition to the theoretical analysis of movement. Class requirements may fulfill Dance Notation Bureau standards for certification in Beginning Labanotation. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

### **DANC 227 The Choreographer I**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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 105 (or concurrent enrollment in 105) or permission of instructor. Enrollment in DANC 107, 108, 109, 208, 209, or 308 is required.

### **DANC 228 The Choreographer II**

*Credit: .5 unit*

Special topics in dance composition are the focus of this course. Students will be presented with advanced choreographic theories and challenges. The choreographic assignments vary each semester and may include studies that emphasize partnering, the use of technology, collaboration, or site-specific work. Course requirements include readings, discussions, and the development and presentation of movement studies. Significant preparation time outside of class is expected. Prerequisite: DANC 227 (The Choreographer I) or permission of instructor. Concurrent enrollment in a dance technique class is required.

### **DANC 308 Advanced Modern Dance Technique**

*Credit: .25 unit*

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. Prerequisite: DANC 208 or permission of instructor.

### **DANC 322 Dance Kinesiology**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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 produc-

ing 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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

### **DANC 397 Junior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

Junior honors in the Department of Dance and Drama is the first step towards departmental honors. It is required of all students wishing to pursue senior honors. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

### **DANC 398 Junior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

Junior honors in the Department of Dance and Drama is the first step towards departmental honors. It is required of all students wishing to pursue senior honors. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

### **DANC 493 Individual Study**

*Credit: .25 unit-.5 unit*

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.

### **DANC 497 Senior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

Prerequisite: permission of department chair and successful completion of junior honors.

### **DANC 498 Senior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

Prerequisite: permission of department chair and successful completion of junior honors.

## DRAMA COURSES

### **DRAM 110 The Play: Production and Performance**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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.

### **DRAM 111 Introduction to the Theater**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course examines how theater differs from other arts and how theatrical artists go about their jobs in 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 meeting 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. 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 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, each student writes, directs, and presents to the class a final short 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. This course will be offered every year.

### **DRAM 213 History of the Western Theater**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course presents an 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. This course will be offered every year.

### **DRAM 216 History of Clothing and Fashion**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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 discus-

sion. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every year.

### **DRAM 218 Introduction to Film**

*Credit: .5 unit*

In this course we will consider the collaborative nature of filmmaking and how its various crafts combine to tell stories with perhaps the greatest mass appeal of any artistic medium. We will explore dramatic narrative structure, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and film genres as they have been used and advanced in the history of cinema. This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every other year.

### **DRAM 221 The Director**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course examines the work of the director through the analysis of plays and the exploration of the visual means of realizing that analysis on stage. Work includes laboratory exercises, written assignments, readings, discussion, and lectures. Students will direct scenes and a short play. This course requires attendance at a weekly lab in addition to regular class meetings. Prerequisite: DRAM 111. This course will generally be offered every year.

### **DRAM 222 The Actor**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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. This course will generally be offered every semester.

### **DRAM 223 The Scene Designer**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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 111. This course will generally be offered every year.

### **DRAM 224 The Costume Designer**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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 111. This course will generally be offered every year.



**DRAM 225 The Lighting Designer***Credit: .5 unit*

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 111. This course will generally be offered every year.

**DRAM 227 Scene Painting***Credit: .5 unit*

This course studies the procedures and materials of the scenic artist. Each student will produce a sequence of scenic projects leading up to a large final project. Whenever possible, the course will use faculty productions in the Bolton Theater as material for study. The format for this course will involve reading, demonstrations, and projects. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will be offered every other year.

**DRAM 231Y The Play: Playwriting and Dramatic Theory***Credit: .5 unit*

In this course, the student is given weekly exercises exploring such topics as dialogue, monologue, exposition, autobiography, writing for the opposite gender, and prismatic structure. 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. Prerequisite: DRAM 111. This course will be offered every year.

**DRAM 232Y The Play: Playwriting and Dramatic Theory***Credit: .5 unit*

See description for DRAM 231Y.

**DRAM 235 The Screenwriter***Credit: .5 unit*

This course will explore what is particular about writing for the screen. Through weekly writing assignments, students examine 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 111. This course will generally be offered every year.

**DRAM 236 Acting and Directing for the Camera***Credit: .5 unit*

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 111.

**DRAM 251 Classical Theater***Credit: .5 unit*

This course studies the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes. The emphasis is on reading for a theatrical understanding of these ancient texts. Coursework includes projects, lecture and discussion sessions, and written assignments. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will be offered every other year.

**DRAM 252 The English Renaissance Theater***Credit: .5 unit*

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. This course will generally be offered every other year.

**DRAM 253 Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Drama***Credit: .5 unit*

This course will study the development of classicism in England and France in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Readings will emphasize textual understanding for the stage. The focus of the reading will be theater of England and France, covering texts of Corneille, Molière, Racine, Wycherley, Congreve, Dryden, Marivaux, Beaumarchais, Farquhar, Goldsmith, and Sheridan. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every other year.

**DRAM 255 The Modern Theater***Credit: .5 unit*

This course studies the major theatrical movements of the first half of the twentieth century, emphasizing plays as they were performed in the theater of the time. The format will include readings, discussions, written assignments, projects, and lectures. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every other year.

**DRAM 256 Contemporary Drama***Credit: .5 unit*

Contemporary American Drama will focus on plays of the last twenty years by American playwrights. The class will include work by Tony Kushner, Lanford Wilson, Anna Deveare Smith, Paula Vogel, Stephen Adly Guirgis, David Lindsay-Abaire, and others. Many of the plays will deal with interpretations of and ideas about life in America, specifically the American Dream. In addition to the plays we study, the class will incorporate some discussion of the basic structure of the American theater, the theaters involved with

producing the plays read in the class, and some additional readings. The work for the class will include papers, quizzes, presenting scenes from the assigned plays, and an active class presence. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every other year.

### **DRAM 257 Theater of the African Diaspora**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course will study theater made by and about people of the African Diaspora. The emphasis will be on a textual understanding for the stage. An examination of these texts may reveal fundamental cultural similarities. We will consider the circumstances of enslavement, colonization, and political oppression and the effects these have on the play-making of these particular people. The readings will include the plays of such writers as Baraka, Fugard, Fuller, Hansberry, Hurston, Parks, Shange, Soyinka, Walcott, and Wilson. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. This course will generally be offered every other year.

### **DRAM 321 Advanced Directing**

*Credit: .5 unit*

This course continues an investigation, from the director's point of view, of the creation of live theater from dramatic texts. We will particularly study the role of the director in the development of new work--both in collaboration with playwrights and developed with actors--and in conceiving an entire production. We will also study the history of directing (largely a twentieth-century phenomenon), and the idea of the director as an artist. Prerequisite: Drama 221. Offered every two years .

*Instructor: Kramer*

### **DRAM 322 Verse Acting**

*Credit: .5 unit*

In this class, we develop an approach to acting plays by Shakespeare and other authors writing in verse. The course will focus on textual analysis, methods of rehearsal, and performance approaches particular to working in verse. Prerequisite: Drama 222. Offered every two or three years.

*Instructor: Kramer*

### **DRAM 333 Advanced Playwriting**

*Credit: .5 unit*

In this course, students will be developing a full-length play while simultaneously presenting exercises that explore solo performance, nonlinear narrative, and plays inspired by found text, history, and journalism. We will look at the work of such writers/performers as Bill Irwin, Spaulding Gray, Eric Bogosian, David Kodeski, Anna Deavere Smith, and John Leguizamo. In addition, we will analyze plays by contemporary playwrights such as Tracy Letts, Adam Rapp, Bryony Lavery, Caryl Churchill, and Tarell Alvin McCraney while attempting their playwriting strategies. The semester will culminate in a staged reading of a full-length play. Prerequisite: DRAM 331Y-332Y. This course will generally be offered every other year.

### **DRAM 397 Junior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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### **DRAM 398 Junior Honors**

*Credit: .5 unit*

See course description for DRAM 397. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

### **DRAM 493 Individual Study**

*Credit: .5 unit*

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### **DRAM 497 Senior Honors**

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