

Curriculum and Requirements

Fine Arts Division

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The performing arts of stage and screen, past and present, are the concern of the Department of Dance, Drama, and Film. 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 these works. Some courses concentrate on the arts as they were performed in their historical and cultural context; others explore in depth the craft 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. Majors are given some preference for admission to upper level courses.

New Students

DANC 105 is the most appropriate introductory course for first-year students interested in dance. DRAM 111 is the introductory course most appropriate for first-year students interested in either drama or film. Students interested in film should note that DRAM 111, offered in the fall semester, is a prerequisite to FILM 111, which is offered in the spring semester. As the foundation on which the other coursework in the department is built, these courses are recommended to 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 majors in dance, drama, and film are normally open to students whose performance in the appropriate introductory course has been good.

Requirements for the Major

Students majoring in the department may emphasize theater, dance, or film. The minimum requirements for each major are as follows:

Emphasis in Theater (5.5 units):

DRAM 111 Introduction to the Theater (.5 unit)

DRAM 213 History of Western Theater (.5 unit)

1.5 units drawn from Elements of Theater Art

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-DRAM 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--these may include courses in dance and/or film.

DRAM 493 Individual Study (.5 unit)

Emphasis in Dance (5 units):

DANC 105 Introduction to the Dance (.5 unit)

DANC 215 Contemporary Dance History (.5 unit)

DANC 220 Dance Labanotation (.5 unit)

DANC 227 The Choreographer I (.5 unit)

DANC 228 The Choreographer II (.5 unit)

.5 unit drawn from Elements of Theater Art

DANC 322 Dance Kinesiology (.5 unit)

DANC 493 Individual Study (.5 unit)

1 unit of Dance Technique

Emphasis in Film (5.5 units):

DRAM 111 Introduction to the Theater (.5 unit)

FILM 111 Introduction to Film (.5 unit)

1 unit from our selections of Film Genre courses (FILM 251-FILM 259)

1.5 units selected from the list below, including at least one class in writing for the screen (FILM 231, 243, 335, or 336)

FILM 230 Writing the Short Film (.5 unit)

FILM 231 The Screenwriter (.5 unit)

FILM 261 Directing for the Camera (.5 unit)

FILM 267 The Documentary (.5 unit)

FILM 328 Advanced Acting on Screen(.5 unit)

FILM 335 Screenwriting II/Film Development (.5 unit)

FILM 336 Writing the Television Pilot (.5 unit)

FILM 361 Intermediate Film Directing (.5 unit)

Students are also required to fulfill the requirements for their senior exercise with a one-semester Individual Study. FILM 493 Individual Study (.5 unit)

In addition, students pursuing a major in Film must choose an additional 1.5 units of study in consultation with their faculty advisor. Students are encouraged to include courses offered by other departments in their course of study, but no more than 1 unit outside the Department of Dance, Drama, and Film can be credited toward the 5.5 units required for the major. Courses students might choose to complete the required additional 1.5 units of study include, but are not limited to:

DRAM 220 The Actor (.5 unit)

DRAM 231Y-232Y Playwriting and Dramatic Theory (1 unit)

DRAM 242 The Costume Designer (.5 unit)

DRAM 243 The Lighting Designer (.5 unit)

DRAM 261 The Director (.5 unit)

ARTS 107 Digital Imaging (.5 unit)

ARTS 361 Alternative Narratives: The Role of Storytelling in Video Art (.5 unit)

ARTS 362 Poetics of the Moving Image (.5 unit)

ENGL 219 Film as Text (.5 unit)

ITAL 350 Topics in Italian Cinema (.5 unit)

PHIL 263 Mind, Perception, and Film (.5 unit)

WGS 221 Gender and Film (.5 unit)

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 Individual Study, DANC, DRAM, or FILM 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, Drama, and Film, the pursuit of 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, Drama, or Film, 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 3.33 or better.
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 the Department of Dance, Drama, or Film.
3. The candidate for honors will be expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 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, drama, or film to the department faculty before the tenth week of instruction of the first semester 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, drama, or film should speak with their advisor or the department chair, well in advance of the deadline noted above.

Requirements for the Minor in Dance

The following courses are required for a minor in dance (3.0 units):

DANC 105 Introduction to the Dance (.5 unit)

.5 unit of dance technique

DANC 215 Contemporary Dance History (.5 unit)

DANC 227 The Choreographer I (.5 unit)

Choose 2 of the following 3 courses : DANC 220 Dance Labanotation, DANC 228 The Choreographer II, and DANC 322 Dance Kinesiology (1 unit)

[\[WU1\]](#)In all lists of courses, here and below, it might be good to give titles. Not absolutely necessary.

[\[WU2\]](#)Again, it might make sense to give titles for these courses; also, to double-check course numbers.

Courses in Dance

Note: This page contains **all** of the regular courses taught by this department. Not all courses are offered every year. Check the [searchable schedule](#) to see which courses are being offered in the upcoming semester.

DANC 104 Yoga

Credit: 0.25

This is a Hatha Yoga course that will help the participants improve alignment, balance, strength, and flexibility through the mindful practice of yoga postures. Integration through motion, breath, and healthy attentiveness will be emphasized. The required reading for the course, *Yoga, Mind, Body and Spirit*, by Donna Farhi, will provide a deeper understanding of what yoga has to offer. This course is generally offered every other year.

DANC 105 Introduction to the Dance

Credit: 0.5

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. The 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, such as the Ballets Russes, Martha Graham, and Katherine Dunham. While we will focus on Western concert dance as a performing art, we will also study some dance phenomena cross-culturally in order to broaden our understanding of the function dance serves and its relationship to cultural beliefs 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. This course is offered every year.

DANC 107 Beginning Dance Fundamentals

Credit: 0.25

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. This course is offered every year.

DANC 108 Beginning Modern Dance

Credit: 0.25

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: 0.25

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 participation; however, there is no stress placed on public performance. No prior experience is necessary. No prerequisite. This course is generally offered every other year.

DANC 110 The Dance: Production and Performance

Credit: 0

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: 0.25

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. This course is offered every semester.

DANC 209 Intermediate Ballet Technique

Credit: 0.25

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. This course is offered every semester.

DANC 215 Contemporary Dance History

Credit: 0.5

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. This course is generally offered every other year.

DANC 220 Dance Labanotation

Credit: 0.5

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. This course is generally offered every other year.

DANC 227 The Choreographer I

Credit: 0.5

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 227 and DANC 228 are offered on alternate years.

DANC 228 The Choreographer II

Credit: 0.5

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 227 and DANC 228 are offered on alternate years.

DANC 308 Advanced Modern Dance Technique

Credit: 0.25

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. This course is offered every semester.

Instructor: Staff

DANC 322 Dance Kinesiology

Credit: 0.5

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. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Generally offered every other year.

DANC 397 Junior Honors

Credit: 0.5

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: 0.5

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: 0.25-0.5

Individual study in dance and drama is reserved for students exploring a topic not regularly offered in the department's curriculum. Typically, the course will carry .5 unit of credit. To enroll in an individual study, a student must identify a member of the department willing to direct the project and, in consultation with him or her, write a proposal. The department chair must approve the proposal. The one- to two-page proposal should include a preliminary bibliography and/or set of specific problems, goals, and tasks for the course, outline a schedule of reading and/or writing assignments or creative undertakings, and describe the methods of assessment (e.g. a journal to be submitted for evaluation weekly; a one-act play due at semester's end, with drafts due at given intervals, etc.). The student should also briefly describe prior coursework which qualifies him or her for this independent project. At a minimum, the department expects the student to meet regularly with the instructor one hour per week, and to submit an amount of work equivalent to that required in 300-level dance and drama courses. Students are urged to begin discussion of their proposed individual study the semester before they hope to enroll, so that they can devise a proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline.

DANC 497 Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

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

DANC 498 Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

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