The information presented here is as of 11/1/2011.

DANCE (Div I)

Chair, Senior Lecturer SANDRA L. BURTON

Faculty: Senior Lecturer: BURTON, Lecturer: H. SILVA. Visiting Lecturer: DANKMEYER. Ballet Mistress: PARKER. Musical Director/Accompanist: SHAKUR, Musical Director: SAUER.

The purpose of the Dance Department is to educate students in the physical disciplines, cultural traditions and expressive possibilities of dance. We provide the opportunity to study and experience dance as technique, composition, history, theory and performance. We do not offer a major or a concentration, yet our courses can offer complementary study in the disciplines of Theater, Visual Art, Africana Studies, Performance Studies and Music. Technique courses currently offered include ballet, modern, African and Irish traditions and forms.

At the beginning of the fall semester, prior to the beginning of classes, the department will offer a placement workshop to evaluate student accomplishment and determine which course level is appropriate. Notification of placement will be sent to the student within 24 hours. If a student wishes to pre-register before the placement workshop, he/she is advised to contact the instructor of the course for advice.

All students are welcome to audition for membership in the Department’s performing companies (CoDa, Kusika, Sankofa, and INISH). Membership is also possible through invitation by the company directors. Kusika and INISH also accept members as dancers, musicians, singers and storytellers. Members study with faculty, guest artists and peers. Student choreographers are also supported.

Students may receive PE credit for dance in the following ways: enrolling in a class that is for PE credit only, choosing the PE option in courses offered for academic credit or PE, successful participation in CoDa, Kusika, Sankofa, or INISH.

The Department belongs to and attends the American College Dance Festival Association New England Regional where students are able to perform, attend master classes and audit for scholarships for summer study. Our students also participate in area cultural events and provide workshops, lecture demonstrations and performances for local schools.

DANC 100(F) Foundations for Dance

This course is a primer of basic dance technique and an introduction to the history of dance in several cultures and serves as the foundation for all other courses taught in the Dance Department. Students will study the fundamentals of ballet, modern, Irish and African dance and the relation between music and movement. Pilates will be introduced as a technique to develop the strength and stamina necessary for all dance activities. The class will also address the fundamental relation between music and dance. Regular studio work will be supplemented with readings, recordings of dance, discussion and visiting artist presentations.

Format: studio/lecture/discussion. Evaluation will be based on physical understanding of the techniques, participation in discussions and the quality of movement and research assignments.

No prerequisites. Experienced dancers who wish to enroll in upper level courses may waive the DANC 100 prerequisite by taking the advanced placement class or by permission of the faculty. Enrollment limit: 30 (expected: 30). Preference given to beginning dancers and students with no prior experience.

Hour: 1:10-3:50 TF

DANCE Department Faculty

DANC 210(F) African Dance and Percussion (Same as Africana Studies 210)

Students will study traditional forms of dance and music from Ghana, Senegal, Mali and The Gambia in West Africa. To more fully understand the art form, students will also study the culture and history of the African regions in which Lamban evolved. This course can be taken for academic and/or PE credit.

Prerequisites: DANC 100 or advanced placement or permission of the instructor.

Instructors: Burton and Shakur

Format: studio/lecture/discussion. Requirements: Students enrolled for academic credit must attend weekly lectures, submit a journal response and write a final 5 page research paper that is related to his/her final performance. Students enrolled for PE credit have no final paper requirement and do not have to attend the weekly lectures. All students are evaluated on the quality of their participation and must participate in a midterm and final demonstration of dance and music as performance and research.

Prerequisites: DANC 100 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 20). Preference given to students who have taken DANC 100 or advanced placement.

Hour: 11:20-12:35 TR and 12:00-12:50 W

BURTON and Kusika Musical Director

DANC 204(S) Perceptual Intelligence (Same as Arts 204)

This course proposes that developing one’s sensory and perceptual faculties has the potential to ignite, inform and/or complicate one’s aesthetic interests and creative practice. As such, the class will offer a toolbox of techniques collected from dance, yoga, meditation, therapy and art that are designed to cultivate mindfulness, bodily presence, and perceptual awareness. Along with these experiential exercises, the class will study art works/performances and read texts on awareness and perception by scientists and social scientists as well as artists. Topics of engagement include the following: Contact Improvisation, Authentic Movement, repetitive tasks, acts of physical and mental endurance, blind walls, Situationist dérives, free writing, Anne Bogart’s Viewpoints, heightening and interacting with one’s sense of hearing, observing quotidian actions, and composing still and moving bodies in a variety of environments. We will work in dance studios, rooms, hallways and other in-between spaces, and natural and constructed outdoor settings. Students will have the opportunity to develop individual and collaborative works, and in the second half of the semester will participate in the development of and rehearsal for an original, movement-based performance work.

Format: studio/lecture/discussion. Requirements: weekly reading, short papers, creation of participatory events, and final projects.

No prerequisites; no performance or dance experience is necessary. Enrollment limit: 18 (expected: 18). Preference given to first-year students, sophomores, juniors and then seniors.

This course may be taken as a 200-level elective in studio art.

Hour: 1:10-3:50 MR

VAN DER KOLK

DANC 207(S) Anatomy for Movers

This course is an introduction to the musculoskeletal system designed for people who are physically engaged and want to know more about the body. Anatomical identification, terminology and physiological principles will be highlighted through lecture, and the use of a variety of exercises, strengthening and movement vocabulary. Pilates mat work, stretching techniques and exercises will be performed in a study setting. Course work includes reading, lectures, physical exercises and reviews.

Format: studio/seminar. Evaluation will be based on quality of participation, tests, final presentation and final exam.

No prerequisites. This course is appropriate for dancers, athletes and others interested in understanding the body as a moving structure. Enrollment limit: 16 (expected: 16).

Hour: 1:10-2:25 M and 1:10-3:50 R

SILVA

DANC 301(S) Creative Process in Dance

This course examines the methods used to make dances. It is intended for the experienced mover who is ready to focus on theory, methods and the history of composing dance in various traditions. Students will be asked to identify their own methods and work with others and research and present regular presentations of their compositions for critical feedback. The class will study diverse dance forms from around the world and will work on creating personal dance projects.

Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 12). Preference given to students who have experience in the process of making dances or using movement as part of making theater and other kinds of performance.

Hour: 1:10-3:50 TF

BURTON

DANC 302(F) “New” Choreography (Same as Arts 205)

Historically, conceptual and visual artists have often exchanged technique and aesthetics with artists in dance and theater. Today there is a renewed interest in the body and performance in gallery and museum contexts at the same time the contemporary dance world is re-visiting interdisciplinary sensibilities and techniques, newly challenging how “dance” can be defined. In this course we will revisit and redefine choreography, calling on compositional techniques from dance as well as strategies not traditionally applied to choreography. Students with an existing practice in any or multiple artistic disciplines are invited to examine and adopt unfamiliar approaches to body-based art making. Weekly compositional assignments and experiential exercises will be complemented with readings and video documentation of professional performances. Topics for discussion will include the following: interconnectedness, as well as in multiple contexts: the contemporary dance world is re-visiting interdisciplinary sensibilities and techniques, newly challenging how “dance” can be defined. In this course we will revisit and redefine choreography, calling on compositional techniques from dance as well as strategies not traditionally applied to choreography. Students with an existing practice in any or multiple artistic disciplines are invited to examine and adopt unfamiliar approaches to body-based art making. Weekly compositional assignments and experiential exercises will be complemented with readings and video documentation of professional performances. Topics for discussion will include the following: interconnectedness, iterative generative ways of inventing and organizing movement, how a maker transmits choreography to a performer, and how and for what purpose an artist frames his/her work in a context. We will look at a number of works categorized within the field of dance, while also considering examples from live/performances, conceptual practice, music/sound, installation and sculpture.

Format: studio/lecture/discussion. Requirements: completion of weekly compositional assignments, full participation in all in-class exercises and discussions, completion of weekly readings and papers related to that week’s topic, 2-3 page reflection essays about at least four compositional studies as they relate to the projects we view and read about, and a final project.

Prerequisites: at least one 200 or 300 level course in Dance, Studio Art, Music, Theater or Creative Writing. Or, 2 years of participation in a Williams College dance company. Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 12). Preference given to seniors, juniors and seniors with experience in creative arts.

This course may be taken as a 200-level elective in studio art.

Hour: 7:00-9:40 p.m. M and 1:10-3:50 T

VAN DER KOLK

DANC 317(S) Black Migrations: African American Performance at Home and Abroad (Same as Africana Studies 317, American Studies 317, Comparative Literature 319, English 317 and Theatre 317)

(See under AFR 317 for full description.) BRAGGS

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COURSES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT ONLY

Intermediate Ballet (Fall)
This course focuses on traditional ballet technique. Students will learn to warm-up at the barre and proceed to center work such as adage, pirouettes, jumps and traveling steps.
Format: studio. Requirements: 2–3 years of training in ballet or permission of the instructor.
Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 12). Students may seek permission of the instructor or take the placement class.
This course may only be taken for PE credit.
Hour: 9:55-11:10 TR JANINE PARKER

Beginning Ballet (Spring)
This course will build on the fundamentals of classical technique using the barre and center floor work. Students will learn to work safely and correctly with their individual abilities. Emphasis is placed on the following: proper alignment of the body, understanding music in relationship to dance and the development of expression through movement.
Format: studio. Evaluation will be based on quality of participation, understanding and use of technique as well as progress with movement concepts. Prerequisites: DANC 100 or permission of the instructor.
No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 12). Preferences given to students who have completed DANC 100.
This course may only be taken for PE credit.
Hour: 1:10-2:25 TR JANINE PARKER

Intermediate/Advanced Ballet (Spring)
This class will continue to build upon the technique of the classical ballet technique and will focus on continued barre and center floor work. Students will continue to learn to work correctly based on individual abilities. The vocabulary will also include jumps, adage and traveling steps and etudes from the classical ballet canon.
Format: studio. Requirements: Evaluation will be based on quality of participation, progress in understanding and use of technique and etudes.
Prerequisites: a minimum of 2–3 years of training in ballet, placement class or permission of the instructor. Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 12).
Hour: 11:20-12:35 TR JANINE PARKER