World Dance Syllabus

Gallatin School of Individualized Study Spring 2014

Syllabus: World Dance: Arts Workshop Arts-UG 1212
Thurs 3:30-6:10, 715 Broadway, Rm. 430
Kathryn Posin

Dance reflects cultural heritage and is a key to understanding diverse societies. Dance is both of a tradition, and a living presence, and its social functions are continually evolving. In this arts workshop, students will explore several varieties of dance as they appear on six continents of the world. We will examine these dances as encoded forms of a society’s religious, artistic, political, economic, and familial values, and come to understand the different language and movement systems of that culture. In discovering these dances we will read contemporary writings on their culture and grapple with questions of globalization, fusion and authenticity. We will see how migration, missionaries, trade routes and the diaspora have led to the creation of new dance forms like “Bollywood” and “Tribal” that are a synthesis of earlier forms.

Each week students will be introduced to a different cultural dance form through selected readings and a rich collection of video footage. After a brief warm-up, the class will learn simple steps, floor plans and rhythms from the music and dance of the culture being studied. We will move with the particular energy and movement style of a culture and gain identity with the culture through its physical language.

The students will pick a dance from a tradition of their choice and go into the field to learn about it through readings, interviews and participation in dance events of this culture. Through kinesthetic participation in unfamiliar patterns the student is thus physically and conceptually challenged and informed. Using these learned dances as inspiration, students could go on to reinterpret, improvise and create their own variations on these dance forms. The students’ dances, then, will reflect their world view and perception of themselves in our present cultural context.

In this worldwide information society, it is important to remember that the body itself is a source of information -- of memory, instinct, impulse and deep expression. Dance has always had transformative and trance-like powers; in this class the students themselves become researchers, performers and creators of new forms.

At mid term, students will present their plan for pursuing this research and teach a mini-lesson of this dance to the rest of the class. For the final presentation, they will give an oral report and perform a three-to-five minute dance derived from their chosen culture.

Week One, January 29
DANCE AND HUMAN HISTORY
Video: Dance and Human History, Alan Lomax, Paul Bartenieff

Week Two, February 5
SOUTH AMERICA
Reading: Diedre Sklar, On Dance Ethnography, Latin America from the Anthology of World Music and Dance, Carnival in Brazil from Dancing, Gerald Jonas, Barbara Browning, Headspin: Capoeira’s Ironic Inversions
Video: Capoeira, Condomble and Tango from the Anthology of World Music and Dance, Brazil from Dancing, WNET
Two Page Paper: Your field study using Choreometrics.

Week Three, February 12
IRELAND
Video: Riverdance, PBS, European Folk Dance, Dancing, WNET

**Week Four, February 19**

BALI
Reading: *Techniques of Balinese Dance*, Anthology of World Music and Dance, *The Evolution of Legong from Sacred to Secular in the Dance of Bali*, from Dance as Cultural Heritage,
Video: Trance Dance in Bali from Dancing, WNET, Indonesia from the Anthology of World Music and Dance

**Week Five, February 26**

THE SOUTH PACIFIC
READING: Oceania from the anthology of world music and Dance Hawaii and the Cook Islands from dancing, Gerald Jones, Joan Kealinohomoku, *An Anthropologist Looks at Ballet*
Video: Hawaii and the Cook Islands from DANCING WNET.
One page paper on Kealinohomoku

**Week Six, March 5**

THE MIDDLE EAST
Reading: *Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco*, from the Anthology of World Music and Dance, *A Curious and Wonderful Gymnastic*, Dance Perspectives, A.J. Pischl, Selma Jean Cohen, , from Dance as Cultural Heritage,a *The Movement of Dancing Cultures*, Neveu Kringelback and Jonathan Skinner
One Page paper on the Movement of Dancing Cultures
Video: Morocco, Dancing, WNET, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Anthology

**Week Seven, March 12**

Presentation of students’ mid term projects Two page paper due on chosen culture and dance genre.

----------------------------------------- SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES MARCH 16-22 -----------------------------------------

**Week Eight, March 26**

JAPAN
Reading: *Bugaku and Kabuki* from Dancing, Gerald Jonas, *Butoh: Twenty Years Ago We Were Crazy, Dirty and Mad*, Bonnie Sue Stein,
Video: Japan's Bugaku, and Kabuki, Dancing, WNE

**Week Nine, April 2**

RUSSIA
Reading: Russia, Anthology of World Music and Dance, Erika Bourgignon, *Trance and Ecstatic Dance*, Igor Moiseyev, the Mystique of fieldwork Adrienne Kaeppli One page paper
Video: Moiseyev, A Gala Evening, U.S.S.R, from the Anthology of World Music and Dance

**Week Ten, April 9**

INDIA
Reading: Bharata Natyam and Kathakali from the Anthology of World Music and Dance and *Indian Dance* from Dancing, Gerald Jonas, with every ankle jingle alaistair McCauley N.Y. Times
Video: India from the Anthology and Bharata Natyam from Dancing, WNET

**Week Eleven, April 16**

SPAIN
Reading: *Spain*, Anthology of World Music and Dance, The Art of Flamenco, Adrienne Kaeppli, *Dance As Myth, Deidre Sklar Five Premises*
Video: Spain, Anthology of World Music and Dance, Flamenco, Carlos Suara
Week Twelve, April 23
AFRICA
Reading: The Yoruba of West Africa and the Caribbean, the Asante of Ghana, Dancing, Gerald Jonas, Africa, The Anthology of World Music and Dance, Commonalties in African Dance, Kariamu Welsh Asante, The Case for Contamination
Video: Free to Dance, WNET, Africa, Anthology of World Music and Dance, The Yoruba, the Asante and American Africans, Dancing, WNET

Week Thirteen, April 30
NATIVE AMERICAN DANCE
Reading: The Primal Mind, Jamacke Highwater, American Indians from The Anthology of World Music and Dance, Native American Dance from Dancing, Gerald Jonas
Video: American Indian Dance from the Anthology of World Music and Dance, Native American Dance from Dancing, WNET

Week Fourteen, May 7
PRESENTATION OF STUDENT PROJECTS: oral presentation, two to five minute dance performance, research paper and media backup if desired.

Class participation, written papers, of four pages oral reports, participation in dance classes, and performance presentations each determine grade. More than two absences lower the grade.

Academic integrity is expected of all students. No plagiarized work is acceptable and action against such work will be taken.

Wear loose comfortable clothing.
Reading packet can be purchased at Advanced Copy Center, 552 LaGuardia Place (Between. Bleeker & W. 3rd St.) $18.00