Dance and Film

DANCE 299x Section 2– 38447 - 3cr
BG 101 and WQ 211
TR – 2-3:20pm

Instructor: Jennifer Meckley (she/they)
Email: jameckley@bsu.edu
Office: Ball Gym 207
Office Hours: Thurs – 3:30-4;30pm, Mon/Weds – 12-2pm or by appointment

COURSE CONTENT:
This course will investigate the practical construction of dance in film in various contexts such as commercial dance and screendance. Students will analyze dance films and dissect how the camera supports narratives, storytelling, culture, intimacy, emotion, and sociopolitical ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course, the student will:

- Learn basic camera and editing techniques.
- Understand how dance exists in various contexts including commercial, concert, and screen dance.
- Create films that highlight distinct narratives with consideration of other production elements, including lighting, location, and costuming.
- Develop a deeper understanding of camera angles and how they affect perspective.
- Explore different roles involved in the filming process such as videographer, editor, performer, and director.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- Book – students will be assigned readings from the book *"Making Video Dance: A Step-by-step Guide to Creating Dance for the Screen" second edition by Katrina McPherson* available on the Library Course Reading list and at the University Bookstore.
- Video Camera – students will be required to complete various film projects throughout the course. It is imperative that you have your own device that can successfully produce videos. This can include a separate video camera or a cellphone.
- Library Cameras – as BSU students you have access to video camcorders through the University Library. You will be required to utilize these cameras at some point in the semester.
- Computers & Editing Programs – students are required to acquire a computer editing program on their own computer. Students can choose which program they would like to use. This can include iMovie, Movavi, Final Cut Pro, Filmora, Adobe etc.

- If any other course reading materials are needed, they will be provided by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance/Participation 15%

Participation includes daily attendance, physical in class participation, positive attitude towards peers and the instructor, and effort towards learning and improving. Daily notes will be taken by the instructor to determine the final participation score. Students are allotted 2 free absences without it affecting your grade. This includes excused and unexcused absences unless there is an emergency or long term illness/injury to be discussed with the instructor. Each class is worth 10pts. There is a total of 150pts.

Mini Film Explorations 60%

Students will complete 6 mini film explorations that focus on one specific skill or concept. The projects require students to film and edit using their own devices. The projects include camera angles, camera positions, camera movement, lighting, location, and music. The explorations must be 30 seconds to 1 minute in length. You will provide a short 4 sentence blurb that discusses what you learned from the exploration. Worth 10pts each.

Midterm Film Project 1 10%

Students will complete a commercial film group project. This project should use dance as a way to sell a product. The product will be determined by the instructor and the video should be 30 seconds to 1 minute in length. This project must be shot with a library handheld video camera. Additional required documents include a story board and/or shot list and a short description of your experience using the handheld video camera. Worth 20pts. This will be a group project and each student will need to take on the roles of performer, director, videographer, and editor. This project is a total of 100pts

Final Film Project 15%

Students will complete a 7-10 minute screen dance film project. This project should have a clear concept or narrative with dance as the primary vehicle for the story or theme. There should be consideration for costumes, location, camera angles, camera movement, lighting, and music. Students will submit a timeline, short summary of their theme and narrative, and photos of potential locations during the development process (50pts). This will be a group project and each student will need to take on the roles of performer, director, videographer, and editor. This project is a total of 150pts.

Grading

Points Scale
1000-940 pts = A
939-900 pts = A-
899 – 870 = B+
869-830 = B
829 – 800 = B-
799 -770= C+
769 – 730 = C
729 – 700 = C-
699 – 670 = D+
669– 630 = D
629 – 600 = D-
599 > = F

Percentage Scale
100 – 94% = A
93.9 -90% = A-
89.9 – 87% = B+
86.9 – 83% = B
82.9 -80% = B-
79.9 – 77% = C+
76.9 -73% = C
72.9 – 70% = C-
69.9 – 67% = D+
66.9 -63% = D
62.9 – 60% = D-
59.9 – 0% = F

University Policies and Statements

University Statement
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any

accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

College/Department Specified Policies

Class Attendance and withdrawal

No student can miss more than two classes. If you miss more than two, you will be asked to withdraw from the class. Absences are ONLY allowed for the following: *religious holiday; pregnancy, jury duty, death in the family (amount of days per University handbook); and an EXTENDED and DOCUMENTED absence related to illness or health issues (mono, broken leg, pneumonia, etc.).* Colds, flu bugs, and other common illness issues are not excused. Rather, they are part of your allotted absences for each course. In addition, no grade of "W" will be given to a student after midterm, unless he/she is earning a grade of "C" at the time of withdrawal. No grade of "I" will be given to a student who is flunking.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic dishonesty – both intentional and unintentional – is an offense that the university takes very seriously, as do I. The penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will begin at a minimum of a deduction of 100 points (with no points awarded for the assignment in question) and can be as severe as suspension or expulsion from the university. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. The university, the department, and I have provided numerous resources to help you with this. If you want to check something with me personally, don't hesitate. Just don't say, after the fact, "I didn't know that counted as plagiarism." That's unacceptable.

Legitimate Scholarly Sources: All sources used for all assignments in this class must be legitimate, vetted, published scholarly resources that you find using Bracken library resources. You MAY use

- Books found in the library
- Electronic journal or reference articles found using library databases, e-journals, subject guides, or OneSearch

AND THAT IS ALL. There are potential exceptions to this list, and I encourage you to ask me about those exceptions (newspaper websites, etc.). Generally, though this rule applies: If you got

to it in the library building or through library website, you can use it. An incomplete list of things you MAY NOT USE OR CITE:

- Anything found on the internet at large.
- My lectures.
- Any .edu website or a professor's personal website
- Any course textbooks except when quoting a play (see me if you want to request an exception to this)
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Any exceptions to this policy will be noted in individual assignment prompts. If you're not sure about a source, ask me.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: The use of artificial intelligence for any official written assignment is prohibited. This includes any text- generating software (such as ChatGPT, Marmot or Botowski). *Using AI will be treated as plagiarism. You may use AI to help generate ideas, but direct text from any AI source should not be used in official submission of written assignments. If AI use is detected, the student will receive 0 credit for that assignment and will not be provided with an opportunity to re-do the assignment.*

Disability statement

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Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit ***www.bsu.edu/titleix*** or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at ***titleix@bsu.edu***.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at

765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found ***here***.

Sexually Explicit / Violent Material in Performance Courses

Content, movement, and costumes for student choreography assignments must be appropriate. Any work that is sexually explicit, violent, disrespectful, or makes fellow students uncomfortable will not be taken lightly. This behavior will result in a failing grade and possibly more drastic measure will be taken.

FERPA and Privacy

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection.

***Communication is the key to a productive learning relationship. Please do not hesitate to speak with the instructors regarding an issue that may arise.**

Please note: *This syllabus is meant to serve as a guide and is subject to change without notice. Alterations may be made, and additional readings may be assigned to accommodate guest speakers, compensate for school closures due to inclement weather, supplement course materials and encourage student discussion.*