UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: DANC
Course Title: Improvisation

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 2330_201
Credits: 1

Course Description
For students interested in experiencing and developing skills in physical inventiveness and performance intuition and immediacy. Provides guided exploration in the elements of dance for the creative development of personal movement vocabulary, spontaneous group interaction, and the ability to recall and give form to movement generated improvisationally.

Course Attributes
This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information
Instructor Name: Dr. Lyndsey Vader

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Demonstrate the ability to spontaneously create movement by following their inner impulse to move.
2. Respond with sensitivity to other's imagination, intelligence, style, and energy within given improvisational structures.
3. Break through patterns of thinking and moving that have limited them in the past.
4. Demonstrate the ability to sustain concentrated focus while exploring and investigating a given movement structure.

Course Materials and Texts
Buckwalter, Melinda. *Composing While Dancing: An Improviser's Companion.* University of Illinois Press, 2017.

Nachmanovitch, Stephen. *Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art*. TarcherPerigee, 1990.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
- **Participation:** Due to the nature of the course, it is imperative that full physical and mental investment be practiced. Full investment in class discussions, improvisations, assignments, group interaction, and feedback to others is necessary for the successful completion of this course. Come to class prepared to move, create, play, test new waters, dare, risk, and share in a supportive environment. (25% of overall grade)
- **Skill:** Skill will be assessed by considering how the course objectives are met and integrate with development of personal movement vocabulary. (30% of overall grade)
- **Course Notebook:** A designated notebook that you bring to each class is required. The notebook will be used for reflections, observations, and brainstorming. Short descriptions of class improvisations and personal reflections of corresponding in-class concepts will benefit you as a teacher and choreographer. The instructor will collect and review notebooks throughout the semester. (20% of overall grade)
- **Midterm:** Specific improvisation assignments will be given at the midterm. Grades will be based on development and design of the improvisation structure, commitment to the moment of improvisation, and observation, feedback, and class discussion. (10% of overall grade)
- **Final:** Specific improvisation assignments will be given at the midterm. Grades will be based on development and design of the improvisation structure, commitment to the moment of improvisation, and observation, feedback, and class discussion. (15% of overall grade)

UVU Grading Scale

A = 93.6 % - 100%	A- = 90% - 93.5%	B+ = 86.6% - 89.9%
B = 83.6% - 86.5%	B- = 80% - 83.5%	C+ = 76.6% - 79.9%
C = 73.6% - 76.5%	C- = 70% - 73.5%	D+ =66.6% - 69.9%
D = 63.6% - 66.5%	D- = 60% - 63.5%	E = Below 60%

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
Buckwalter, Melinda. *Composing While Dancing: An Improviser's Companion*. University of Illinois Press, 2017.

Nachmanovitch, Stephen. *Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art*. TarcherPerigee, 1990.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Module 1: Sourcing Movement Affinities, Exploring Embodied Histories
Module 2: Exploring Time
Module 3: Shaping Space
Module 4: Investigating Energy and Sensation
Module 5: Working with Scores
Module 6: Witnessing Improvisations in the Everyday

Module 7: Music in Motion
Module 8: Architecture and Alternative Sites
Module 9: Worldmaking and the Potential of Objects
Module 10: Connecting and Contact Improvisation
Module 11: From Improvisation to Choreography

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or

immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](#) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](#)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](#) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.