

Screendance: Movement and The Camera
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Bryn Mawr College
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a practical introduction to Screendance for dancemakers who are interested in extending their experience in dance into a new technological realm. Also known as *dance film*, *cinedance*, *videodance* and/or *dance for the camera*, Screendance connects film (and filmmaking) with dance (and dancemaking) in an evolving hybrid performative practice. It encourages exploration into the unknown and in turn the discovery of possibility. For both the maker and audience, the inquiry is the adventure of discovering what the coming together of dance and screen can be. Screendance can be described as diverse, global, emergent, alive, active, trans-media, continually evolving. Through class screenings, exercises, readings and discussion, students will learn approaches in combining dance and the moving image. Students will work alone and in small collaborative groups to create their own works integrating dance and video. Through creative projects, students will develop their own cinematic style and an increased proficiency with both filming and editing movement.

TOPICS:

Creating Screendance storyboards, film continuity, use of light, shot angles and film techniques, framing for the screen, cutting and transitions, importing video, audio, and image files, titles and credits, re-choreographing through the edit, understanding output options and how to output, publishing to web and social media, where Screendance can live (galleries, online, film festivals, etc.)

TEXTS:

Both available in tri-co library collection

REQUIRED READING:

Making Video Dance by Katrina McPherson

RECOMMENDED READING:

The Oxford Handbook of Screendance Studies by Douglas Rosenberg

PARTICIPATION:

This is an experiential course. Regular attendance and full participation from the beginning to the end of class is essential. Disciplined presence, concentration skills, ability to self-motivate, and quality of participation in all class activities will be strongly considered in the assessment of your course grade.

ATTENDANCE:

It is important that you arrive on time, appropriately dressed, and ready to participate fully. Attendance and participation are **30%** of your grade. You are allowed 2 absences without penalty during the semester. After 2 absences, your grade will be lowered for each additional absence by 1/3 of a grade. Students may observe class only if arrangements have been made with the instructor due to injury or illness. While observing, student should actively take notes on that class and hand in those notes to the instructor after class.

WRITING REQUIREMENT:

Students will observe and review several films from an adjudicated dance film festival. Students will then write a 3-page paper, picking their top three films of interest, discussing observations, emotions, likes and dislikes, and responses. Due October 24, 2019.

MAJOR CLASS PROJECTS:

Due: Thursday, September 26, 2019- “Wide-shots Versus Close-ups”

In this project, dancers will break into groups and create a short dance phrase. Phrase will include: manipulation, gesture, and level change. Dancers will choose a site to film, storyboard, and then film playing with wide shots, mid shots, and close ups. One video from each group will be due by September 26, 2019.

Due: Thursday, October 22, 2019- “Duet with the Camera”

In this project, dancers will break into groups of two. Each will create a short solo. Phrase work will include: Moments of stillness and moments of traveling. Dancers will choose a site to film, storyboard, and then will shoot on location. While the one partner is performing their solo, the other will film. The dancer in charge of filming should keep the camera mobile and “follow” the other dancer with every movement. One video from each dancer will be due by October 22, 2019.

Due: Thursday, November 14, 2019- “Tell a Story”

In this project, dancers will break into small groups. Each group will first storyboard a narrative. Then, each group will create movement to tell the story. Dancers should play with props, landscapes, and movement dynamics (speed and movement size). Groups will choose a site to film and then shoot on location. One video from each group will be due by November 14, 2019.

Due: Thursday, December 12, 2019- “Dancer’s Choice”

In this project, dancers can choose to work on their own, with a partner, or in small groups. Each dancer or group will have the freedom to create their own experimental movement phrase without restriction. Each dancer/group will have the freedom to experiment with the video how they see fit. Each dancer/group will have full rights and liberties in the creation of the final video. One video from each dancer or group will be due by December 12, 2019.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING:

30%: Quality of participation and engagement, Attendance

60%: Video Projects

10%: Dance on Camera Paper

A range— Outstanding, Excellence

Exhibits a hunger and passion for learning, willingness to take movement risks, and integrates corrections; consistently strives for the best and demonstrates exceptional growth toward objectives of the course; actively participates in final group assignment with leadership, commitment, creativity and enthusiasm; written assignments submitted on time, with thoughtful discussion and articulation of ideas.

B range - Very Good, Good

Work shows uniform solidity, dedication and concentration; consistent work habits and demonstrates improvement toward some skills over the semester; actively participates in final group assignment and class discussions; written assignments submitted on time

C range— Average, Adequate

Actively participates but lacks energy or commitment to push toward new heights; work habits are inconsistent; participates in final group assignments, but contributes little; written assignments are poorly written with incomplete information.

* This syllabus is subject to change.