Dance and Popular Culture  
DNCE 1017  
Fall 2014  
3 credits

Instructor: Marissa Hallo Tafura  
Phone: 303-478-6902 (cell)  
Email: hallo@colorado.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am – 12 pm (Kitt Central, 2nd floor) or by appointment

Course Description

This course explores and contextualizes popular culture and dance against the backdrop of socio-political and historical events of the times. We will examine forms formerly categorized as “low art” inside the “high/low” binary of the academy, acknowledging the equal value of the dances of popular culture and examining them as vital components worthy of serious study inside dance scholarship. This course introduces methods of critical analysis that reveal the rich heritage hidden within and around the dances students commonly encounter at the club, on the street, on television, on film and elsewhere in everyday life. Through watching, reading, and discussion, students discover new meaning in their lived cultural experience.

Required Text

Course Reader available at CU Bookstore.

There will be additional required articles and videos posted on Desire2Learn. You are responsible for checking the course calendar for each week’s assigned readings/videos. Additional assignments may be given in class, so please check in with your classmates if you are absent.

Attendance & Participation

You may miss 2 class sessions without a penalty. [There is no difference between an excused and unexcused absence, except in extreme circumstances (i.e., serious illness, death of immediate family member); in these cases, if you contact the instructor as soon as possible and submit adequate documentation detailing your situation, the instructor may make accommodations.] Three late arrivals to class (after attendance has been taken) equal one absence. It is your responsibility to check in with the instructor at the end of class if you arrive late. For every absence exceeding your two allowed absences, your grade will automatically be lowered by a third of a letter grade (i.e. A to A-, B + to B, etc.).

You will fail the course if you miss more than 6 classes.
Participation means being actively engaged in class discussions and activities. This should be done through active listening, conversation, questions, in-class note-taking, etc. It is presumed that you have completed all assigned readings and activities necessary for that day (prior to the start of class).

You are required to sign in at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, please see me after class to sign in. DO NOT SIGN IN FOR ANOTHER STUDENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, OTHERWISE YOU MAY RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.

Meeting Location

Buckingham S106

Technology Policy

Students are not permitted to use laptops during class, with the exception for documentation for disability accommodations, and select classes when the instructor deems laptop use appropriate and necessary. If you are found using technology inappropriately (not related to course learning, not staying on-task, etc.) or without prior permission from the instructor, you will be asked to leave the class and your overall course grade will be lowered by a third of a letter grade. This includes texting on your phone.

Communication

I am very committed to supporting you in your learning and will be available to answer questions during office hours or by email and you can also reach me by phone. You will receive a response to emails within 24 hours, so please plan accordingly. It is helpful to make connections with classmates who can answer basic questions before I may have a chance to respond.

I am available to give you guidance and answer questions, but I ask that you make an effort to get help from a classmate before you contact me for assistance. This will support our classroom community, encourage classmates to know one another, and develop problem-solving skills. It’s not because I don’t want to help you!

Controversial Material

This is a class that addresses complex social and political issues, so we will be confronting controversial matters. At times, this will mean engaging with relevant materials that some students may find offensive. I strongly encourage all students to challenge themselves and encounter new ways of seeing the world. Academic learning and personal growth happens when we experience difference and formulate thoughtful responses to such encounters. I will do my best to alert you as we approach especially controversial materials, and to provide options (i.e., leaving the room, viewing alternative materials), but you should know in advance
that this is not always possible.

**Assignments**

Please refer to the Course Schedule for all reading and assignment due dates (additional assignments may be given in class). All assignments on the course schedule should be submitted on Desire2Learn. Please save documents as your first initial followed by your last name, and include the name of the assignment (i.e., JDoerCourtDance). Always include your name, course section, name of assignment and date on the top of your assignment.

10% will be deducted from assignments for each day they are late. If you submit an assignment after the first 10 minutes of class, 5% will be deducted for that day. No papers will be accepted if they are more than two days late (i.e., papers due on Tuesday at 5 pm will only be accepted until Thursday at 5 pm).

All assignments must be typed, with the exception of responses to reading questions. Please save all assignments so that you may refer back to them at different points in the semester. Homework may be assigned in class or may be assigned through an email distributed to the class. You are required to check your CU email daily.

**Final Exam**

Monday, December 15, 2014 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Grading**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four experiential assignments</td>
<td>20% (5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three exams</td>
<td>30% (10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and course schedule during the semester.

**University Policies**

**Disabilities:**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability
Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Observances:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you are required to notify the professor by the start of the third week of classes of any religious observances that conflict with our course schedule.

Learning Environment:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include:
cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at

http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://honorcode.colorado.edu