Dance and Popular Culture  
DNCE 1017  
Fall 2015  
3 credits  
COMM RAP

Instructor: Marissa Hallo Tafura  
Phone: 303-478-6902 (cell)  
Email: hallo@colorado.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:15-3:15 – Buckingham KCN212  
Tuesday, 11:15-12:15 -- Libby 140A  
Thursday, 11:15-12:15 -- Arnett 220

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 Readings & Videos

There will be 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.**

**Technology Policy**

Please bring your laptop/device to class (if you have one) but be prepared to take notes in a notebook. Students are not permitted to use laptops during class, with the exception for documentation for disability accommodations, and select in class activities 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., J Doe_CourtDance). 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.

Your final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 7:30 pm – 10 pm.

Quizzes

Please see your course schedule for assigned weekly quizzes to be completed on D2L. Quizzes are normally due to be completed prior to our class on Thursdays. Quizzes may include information from assigned readings and lectures. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped; this allows for illness and other issues that prevent you from completing a quiz on time.

Grading

Weekly Quizzes 25% (2 will be dropped)
Experiential assignments 10% (5% each)
Three exams 30% (10% each)
Research Paper 25%
Comparative Analysis Presentation 10%

University Policies

(1) On Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community - N200, at: disabilityservices.colorado.edu

(2) On 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.
See full details at: colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-and/or-exams

(3) **On Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Contact: 303-492-5550, Center for Community, S430, at: colorado.edu/osc

(4) **On Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:** The University of Colorado 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, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. 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, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. Contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance at 303-492-2127 or visit: colorado.edu/institutionalequity/

(5) **On the 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 via email at honor@colorado.edu or by phone at: 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: Colorado.edu/policies/honor