

Alma College  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
**Course Syllabus: THD 201-01 Choreography I**  
**Winter 2016**

**Instructor:** Crystal Fullmer  
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**Office:** Heritage Center  
**Office Hours:** M/W 1:30-2:30 PM, T/Th  
2:00-3:00 PM, or by appointment

**Course Description:** Analysis of choreographic styles. Principles of various choreographers examined and experienced. Development of individual skills for choreographing.

This course will focus on movement invention and the composition of movement, including a basic understanding of the Laban Efforts, the concepts of Space, Time, and Energy, the use of Compositional Devices, and an integrated arts approach to creating dance.

**Course Objectives:**

- To actively engage in the creative process.
- To understand that choreography is an ongoing practice.
- To engage in movement invention and to create dance.

<b>Learner Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Outcomes</b>
Understand and implement introductory concepts of dance composition and choreography.	Students will read all assignments, participate in group discussions, and create in-class movement studies.
Create original work for the purposes of gaining skills in movement invention and choreography.	Students will complete three formal movement studies with personal reflection, peer feedback, and faculty feedback.
Choreograph a fully conceptualized dance using an integrated arts approach.	Students will create a small group work that integrates dance, music, poetry, visual art, and costumes for the final project.
Discuss choreographic choices and works in progress with scholarly language and articulate the reasoning for the choices.	Students will give an oral presentation of the final project articulating their creative process.

**No text is required for this course.** Required readings will be handed out in class or via Moodle.

**Additional Materials:** A notebook/journal will be required for this course.

## POLICIES

**Cell Phone Policy:** Absolutely no cell phone use during class time. Be sure your phones (or other noise making devices) are powered off, or silenced before class begins. *Using your cell phone in class will result in being asked to leave and zero credit awarded for any assignments that day.* If your phone rings during class you will be asked to stand up and perform a dance solo to the accompaniment of your phone.

**Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty:** Honesty in academic endeavors is a central tenet of the Alma College philosophy. The complete college policy may be found at:  
<http://www.alma.edu/student-handbook/section-ii/academic-dishonesty-policy/>

Students must properly cite all sources within their assignments, writing, and research. Failing to properly cite material is considered plagiarism and serious or repeated issues will result in consequences, up to and including failing the course. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Provost's Office.

**Class Attire:** Because this is both a movement and theory class students are expected to come to class in attire that allows full range of motion, while also keeping the body safe and warm during non-moving parts of the class. There is not a strict dress code to adhere to – please use your discretion for the safety of your body and the best learning experience.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Attendance & Engagement:** Students are required to attend all classes on time and be prepared to actively participate. Much of this course will be actively workshopping and creating movement in class, as well as formal and informal class discussions. Earnestly engaging in topic discussions is a characteristic of a student that will excel in this course.

**Reading & Journaling:** Students will keep a personal choreographic journal during the course of the semester. The journal will be used in class and additionally will be part of homework assignments. It will also be utilized to track big questions that come from readings, as well as help the student narrow points of interest for their final project. The choreographic journal may be requested by the instructor periodically during the semester.

**Choreographic Studies:** Students will be responsible for choreographing several choreographic studies throughout the semester. These will include in-class assignments and more formal creations.

**Showings & Group Discussions:** There will be a series of three formal showings of student compositions throughout the semester. These will be open to the public and include group discussion following the format introduced in class.

**Final Choreographic Project:** Students will create a fully conceptualized dance for presentation at the end of the semester. The format of this project will integrate a multi-arts approach and be accompanied by an oral presentation of the work.

**Event Ushering:** Students **must** usher **one event** in the Heritage Center during the semester (approximately 3 hours). Sign up for an event at the Box Office any time during the first two weeks of class.

**Extra Credit – Live Dance:** Students may earn extra credit by attending and writing on one of the many live dance performances presented throughout the state. More details will be available on Moodle.

**Final Grade Evaluation:**

Attendance & Engagement 35%  
Reading & Journaling Discussions 10%  
Showings & Group Discussions 10%  
Choreographic Studies 10%  
Final Choreographic Project 30%  
Event Ushering 5%

**Important Dates:**

Spring Concert Audition – January 11, 5:30 PM  
Dance Open House – January 16  
School Performance – January 18  
Student Choreography Concert – January 20-22  
SHIFT Senior Concert – February 10-11  
Pilobolus *Shadowland* in Midland – February 18  
Winter Recess – February 25-March 5  
Spring Dance Concert – March 17-19  
ACDA – March 25-28  
Honors Day – April 6  
**Final Exam – April 18, 2-4 PM**

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Alma College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability and you would like to request accommodations, please see Nate

Payovich (payovichn@alma.edu) in the Center for Student Opportunity (Tyler-Van Dusen) so that such accommodations can be considered. If you currently receive accommodation letters from the CSO, please meet with me outside of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.