The Department of Dance

Mission

The Barnard College Department of Dance, located in a world dance capital, offers an interdisciplinary program that integrates the study of dance within a liberal arts setting of intellectual and creative exploration. The major builds upon studio courses, the Department’s productions at Miller Theater, New York Live Arts, and other venues, as well as a rich array of dance studies courses, allowing students’ creative work to develop in dialogue with critical inquiry into the history, culture, theory and forms of western and non-western performance, typically enhanced by study in other disciplines. Students work with accomplished artists whose work enriches contemporary American dance; they also study with outstanding research scholars.

Making, thinking about, and writing about art are an essential part of the liberal arts education. For this reason, the Department of Dance offers technique courses for students of all levels of expertise, while opening its other courses to majors and non-majors alike, who may also audition for its productions. The Department partners with cultural institutions in New York City to connect students with the professional world.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Major and Minor

Students graduating with a major in Dance should be able to attain the following outcomes:

- Apply critical thinking, reading, and writing skills to dance-related texts and choreography.
- Develop the knowledge and research skills to explore the dance past in writing, orally, and in performance.
- Present interpretations of dance-related texts orally, in writing, and in performance.
- Apply library, archival, and internet research skills to dance scholarship and choreography.
- Demonstrate improved efficiency and expressivity in dance technique.
- Demonstrate growing technical understanding and fluency in dance technique.
- Create original dances, dance/theater works or dance-based, mixed media works.
- Collaborate with an artist in the creation of original dance works.
- Participate in the creative process through the creation and interpretation of choreography.
- Apply interdisciplinary research methods to dance scholarship and choreography.
- Apply historical research methods to dance scholarship and choreography.
- Demonstrate conceptual and methodological approaches for studying world dance forms through research and writing.
- Demonstrate the ability to understand cultural and historical texts in relation to dance forms.
- Apply anatomical knowledge to movement and movement concepts.
- Evaluate the theoretical and artistic work of peers.
- Communicate with an audience in oral presentations and dance performance.
- Understand and interpret the language and form of an artist’s choreography.
- Solve technical problems in dance movement.
- Apply musical knowledge to movement and choreography.
- Design choreographic movement and structures.

Professor: Paul A. Socolier (Chair & Director of Undergraduate Studies)
Professor of Professional Practice: Colleen Thomas-Young
Associate Professor of Professional Practice: Marjorie Folkman
Assistant Professor: Seth Williams

Senior Associate: Katie Glasner

Adjunct Faculty: Cynthia Anderson, Jennifer Archibald, Rebecca Bliss, Candace Brown, Siobhan Burke, Maguette Camara, Antonio Carmena, Uttara Coorlawala, Dormeshia, Allison Easter, Wesley Ensminger, Caroline Ferrin, Tamisha Guy, Chisa Hidaka, Jodi Melnick, Vincent McCloskey, Juan Rodriguez, Yoshito Sakuraba, Carol Teitelbaum, Nelida Tirado, Caitlin Trainor, Ashley Tuttle

Technical Director and Lighting Designer: Tricia Toliver
Music Director: Robert Boston
Senior Administrative Assistant: Diane Roe

Major in Dance

Majors must complete eleven academic courses (six required, five elective) and a minimum of eight 1-point technique courses (minimum 42 credits). All majors write a senior thesis as part of their coursework.

The required courses for the major in dance are distributed as follows:

Dance History

The following two courses in Dance History must be completed before the fall of the senior year:

- DNCE BC2565 World Dance History 3
- DNCE BC3001 HISTORY OF THEATRICAL DANCING 3

Movement Science

Select one or more of the following:

- DNCE BC2501 BIOMECHANICS FOR THE DANCER 3
- DNCE BC2562 Movement Analysis 3

Composition

One course in Composition must be completed before the fall of the senior year.

- DNCE BC2564 Dance Composition: Content 3
- DNCE BC3565 Composition: Collaboration and the Creative Process 3
- DNCE BC3566 Composition: Site Specific and Experimental Methods 3
- DNCE BC2563 Dance Composition: Form 3

Senior Work

Seniors planning to write a combined thesis must request approval from both departments and notify the Registrar. All majors must complete two semesters of senior work. The following course, which culminates in a 25-30-page written thesis and an oral presentation to the Department at the end of the semester, is required of all seniors:
Overview of Major Requirements (11 total, plus 8 technique courses)

- 1 Movement Science
- 1 Composition
- 2 History
- 1 Senior Seminar
- 1 Senior Project (Research in Dance or Repertory for Dance)
- 5 Electives
- 8 Technique Courses

Senior Work
All dance majors must complete two semesters of senior work. DNCE BC3591 Senior Seminar in Dance given in the fall semesters, requires a 25-30 page written thesis and an oral presentation to the Department at the end of the semester. The second semester is usually a performance project for which the student registers in DNCE BC3593 Senior Project: Repertory for Dance. Students may also choose to do a two-semester thesis, registering in DNCE BC3592 Senior Project: Research for Dance. Students who are double majors may request permission to do a two-semester combined thesis.

Overview of Major Requirements (11 total, plus 8 technique classes)

- 1 Movement Science
- 1 Composition
- 1 History
- 1 Writing
- 1 Senior Seminar
- 1 Senior Project (Research in Dance or Repertory for Dance)
- 5 Electives
- 8 Technique Classes

Minor in Dance
Six courses constitute a minor in dance. Normally, three history/criticism and three credit-bearing performance/choreography courses are taken. (Note: 1-point technique courses do NOT count toward the Dance minor.) Courses are to be selected on the basis of consultation with full-time members of the department.

Dance Courses

DNCE BC1135 Ballet, I: Beginning. 1 point.

DNCE BC1136 Ballet, I: Beginning. 1 point.

DNCE BC1137 Ballet, II: Advanced Beginning. 1 point.

DNCE BC1138 Ballet, II: Advanced Beginning. 1 point.

DNCE BC1250 HIP HOP DANCE # CULTURE I. 0.00-1.00 points.

This course introduces students to urban dance styles, focusing on the foundations and origins of hip-hop dance, street dance culture, and the physical vocabularies of hip-hop and freestyle dance. Classes are geared to condition the body for the rigors of hip-hop technique by developing strength, coordination, flexibility, stamina, and rhythmic awareness while developing an appreciation of choreographic movement and structures. Compositional elements of hip-hop will be introduced and students may compose brief movement sequences.

DNCE BC1330 Modern, I: Beginning Modern Dance. 1 point.
Open to all beginning dancers.

DNCE BC1331 Modern, I: Beginning Modern Dance. 1 point.
Open to all beginning dancers.
DNCE BC1332 Modern, II: Advanced Beginning Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC1333 Modern, II: Advanced Beginning Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC1445 TAP I. 0.00-1.00 points.
DNCE BC2137 Ballet, III: Intermediate. 1 point.
DNCE BC2138 Ballet, III: Intermediate. 1 point.
DNCE BC2139 Ballet, IV: High Intermediate. 1 point.
DNCE BC2140 Ballet, IV: High Intermediate. 1 point.
DNCE BC2250 HIP HOP DANCE # CULTURE II. 0.00-1.00 points.
Prerequisites: Intermediate level of dance or permission of the instructor.
This Course introduces intermediate level students to urban dance styles, focusing on foundations and origins of hip-hop dance, street dance culture, and the physical vocabularies of hip-hop and freestyle dance. Classes are geared to condition the body for the rigors of hip-hop technique by developing strength, coordination, flexibility, stamina, and rhythmical awareness, while developing an appreciation of choreographic movement and structures. Compositional elements of hip-hop will be introduced and students may compose brief movement sequences. The course meets twice weekly and is held in the dance studio. Prerequisite: Intermediate level of a dance form or permission of the instructor
DNCE BC2252 African Dance I. 1 point.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.
Concentrates on the dances of West Africa, including Senegal, Mali, and Guinea, and a variety of dances performed at various functions and ceremonies. Explanation of the origin and meaning of each dance will be an integral part of the material presented.
DNCE BC2253 African Dance II. 1 point.
Prerequisites: DNCE BC2252 or permission of instructor.
DNCE BC2254 Classical Indian Dance. 1 point.
Principles and practices of Bharata Natyam including the adavu movement system, hasta or hand gestures, narrative techniques, or abhanaya, as well as other classical Indian dance forms.
DNCE BC2255 Afro-Cuban Dance: Orisha, Rumba, Salsa. 1 point.
Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor.
This class will introduce students to the African-based folkloric and popular dances of Cuba, including Orisha, Rumba, and Salsa. In addition to learning rhythms and dances, these forms will be contextualized within the historical and contemporary significance of Afro-Cuban dance performance.
DNCE BC2260 HIP HOP DANCE # CULTURE III (ADVANCED). 0.00-1.00 points.
Advanced technique and repertory in hip hop. Classes are geared to condition the body for the rigors of hip-hop technique by developing strength, coordination, flexibility, stamina, and rhythmic awareness, while developing an appreciation of choreographic movement and structures. Compositional elements of hip-hop will be introduced and students may compose brief movement sequences. The course meets twice weekly and is held in the dance studio
DNCE BC2332 Modern, III: Intermediate Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC2333 Modern, III: Intermediate Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC2334 Modern, IV: High Intermediate Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC2335 Modern, IV: High Intermediate Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC2448 TAP II. 0.00-1.00 points.
DNCE BC2452 Pilates for the Dancer. 1 point.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor or DNCE BC1330, BC1331, BC1135, BC1136.
Focus on movement practices, primarily for dancers, which introduces the concepts of Joseph Pilates, a seminal figure in creating a method of body conditioning. Learn and practice a repertory of mat work to improve body awareness, strength, flexibility, and dynamic alignment.
DNCE BC2465 FELDENKRAIS FOR DANCERS. 0.00-1.00 points.
Through guided practice-based lessons in Awareness Through Movement® (ATM), students develop sensory awareness of habitual neuromuscular patterns resulting in increased movement efficiency, improved skill acquisition, and greater strength, coordination, and flexibility. Applicable to all dance styles and activities
DNCE BC2563 Dance Composition: Form. 3 points.
The study of choreography as a creative art. The development and organization of movement materials according to formal principles of composition in solo and duet forms. Applicable to all styles of dance.
DNCE BC2564 Dance Composition: Content. 3 points.
Continued study of choreography as a communicative performing art form. Focuses on the exploration of ideas and meaning. Emphasis is placed on the development of personal style as an expressive medium and unity of style in each work. Group as well as solo compositions will be assigned.
DNCE BC2565 World Dance History. 3 points.
Investigates the multicultural perspectives of dance in major areas of culture, including African, Asian, Hispanic, Indian, Middle Eastern, as well as dance history of the Americas through reading, writing, viewing, and discussion of a wide range of resources. These include film, original documents, demonstration, and performance.
ANAT BC2573 Human Anatomy and Movement. 3 points.
Corequisites: ANAT BC2574
Dancers and other movers will acquire concrete, scientific information about anatomy and integrate this knowledge into their sensed experience of movement. Through readings, lecture/discussions and movement practice, students will explore: (1) structure and function of bones and joints, (2) muscles, neuromuscular function and coordination, (3) motor cognition and learning.
DNCE BC3001 HISTORY OF THEATRICAL DANCING. 3.00 points.
Focuses on the history of theatre dance forms originating in Europe and America from the Renaissance to the present. Includes reading, writing, viewing, and discussion of sources such as film, text, original documentation, demonstration, and performance.
DNCE BC3138 Ballet V: Intermediate Advanced. 1 point.
DNCE BC3139 Ballet, V: Advanced. 1 point.
DNCE BC3140 Ballet, VI: Advanced Ballet with Pointe. 1 point.
DNCE BC3141 Ballet, VI: Advanced Ballet with Pointe. 1 point.
DNCE BC3143 Classic Variations. 1 point.
DNCE BC3200 Dance in Film. 3 points.
Survey of theatrical dance in the 20th century specific to film production. Five kinds of dance films will be examined: musicals, non-musicals, documentaries, film essays and pure dance recording.
DNCE BC3248 JAZZ DANCE III. 1.00 point.
DNCE BC3249 Jazz, III: Advanced Jazz Dance. 1 point.
Prerequisites: DNCE BC2447, BC2448, or permission of instructor.
DNCE BC3250 FLAMENCO. 0.00-1.00 points.
Prerequisites: DNCE BC1137, BC1138, BC1332, BC1333, or Permission of instructor. Intermediate level in modern or ballet technique is required. The study of contemporary flamenco dance technique with special emphasis on improvisation and performance. Through video and reading assignments and attendance at live performances, students will also develop a context for understanding flamenco art, pedagogy, and culture.
DNCE BC3332 Modern V: Intermediate Advanced. 1 point.
Note: This is a variable-point course (0-1 pts).
Intermediate Advanced.
DNCE BC3333 Modern V: Intermediate Advanced. 1 point.
Note: This is a variable-point course (0-1 pts).
Intermediate Advanced.
DNCE BC3335 Modern, VI: High Advanced Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC3336 Modern, VI: High Advanced Modern Dance. 1 point.
DNCE BC3447 Tap, III: Advanced Tap Dance. 1 point.
Prerequisites: DNCE BC2447, BC2448, or permission of instructor.
DNCE BC3560 Screendance: Composition for the Camera & Composition of the Camera. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Must have taken a Dance Department Composition course, have some dance training. This experiential, hands-on course requires all students to choreograph, dance, and film. Focusing on single-shot film-making, the duet of the camera and the dance will create an understanding of the interaction between the two, enabling students to create a final short film.
DNCE BC3567 Dance of India. 3 points.
A range of dance genres, from the traditional to the innovative, co-exist as representations of "Indianness" in India, and beyond. Identities onstage and in films, morph as colonial, national, and global contexts change. This course zooms from micro to macro views of twentieth century staged dances as culturally inflected discourse. We review how Indian classical dance aligns with the oldest of performance texts, and with lively discourses (rasa as a performance aesthetic, Orientalism, nationalism, global recirculations) through the ages, not only in India but also in Europe, Britain and America. Throughout the course, we ask:- How is culture embodied? How do historical texts configure dance today? How might they affect our thinking on mind-body, practice-theory, and traditional-contemporary divides? How does bodily patterning influence the ways that we experience our surroundings and vice versa? Can cultural imaginaries instigate action? How is gender is performed? What are dance discourses?
DNCE BC3576 DANCE CRITICISM. 3.00 points.
This course offers intensive practice in writing on dance and explores a range of approaches to dance criticism from the 1940s through today. Starting from the premise that criticism can be an art form in itself, we ask: What are the roles and responsibilities of a critic? How do our own identities and experiences inform how we see and write? With the proliferation of dance in digital spaces, what new possibilities arise for dance criticism? Class meetings include discussion, writing exercises, and peer workshops. Assignments involve viewing performances outside of class.
DNCE BC3591 Senior Seminar in Dance. 4 points.
Research and scholarly writing in chosen topics relating to dance. Methods of investigation are drawn from prominent archival collections and personal interviews, as well as other resources. Papers are formally presented to the Dance Department upon completion.
DNCE BC3592 Senior Project: Research for Dance. 4 points.
Independent study for research and writing (35 to 50-page thesis required).
DNCE BC3593 Senior Project: Repertory for Dance. 3 points.
Independent study for preparing and performing repertory works in production to be presented in concert.
DNCE BC3604 Rehearsal and Performance in Dance. 1-3 points.
Prerequisites: Audition See Dance Department webpage for audition dates.
Students are graded and take part in the full production of a dance as performers, choreographers, designers, or stage technicians.
DNCE BC3605 Rehearsal and Performance in Dance. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Audition. Do not register for this course until you have been selected at the audition. Subject to cap on studio credit. Can be taken more than once for credit up to a maximum of 3 credits a semester. Students are graded and take part in the full production of a dance as performers, choreographers, designers, or stage technicians.
Cross-Listed Courses - American Studies

DNCE BC2565 World Dance History. 3 points.

Investigates the multicultural perspectives of dance in major areas of culture, including African, Asian, Hispanic, Indian, Middle Eastern, as well as dance history of the Americas through reading, writing, viewing, and discussion of a wide range of resources. These include film, original documents, demonstration, and performance.

DNCE BC2570 Dance in New York City. 3 points.

Study of the cultural roots and historical contexts of specific communities using New York City's dance scene as a laboratory. Students observe the social environments in which various modes of dance works are created while researching the history of dance in New York City. Course includes attendance at weekly events, lecture-demonstrations, and performances.

DNCE BC2575 Choreography for the American Musical. 3 points.

Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: Suggested DNCE BC2560, BC2566, BC2570
Explores the history and evolution of American Musical Theater dance, a uniquely American art form, with special focus on the period known as "The Golden Era." Analysis of the genre's most influential choreographers (including Balanchine, de Mille, Robbins), their systems, methodologies and fusion of high and low art on the commerical stages.

DNCE BC2580 Tap as an American Art Form. 3 points.

Prerequisites: DNCE BC1446 or equivalent experience.
Studio/lecture format focuses on tap technique, repertory, improvisation, and the development of tap explored through American history, jazz music, films, videos, and biographies.

DNCE BC3001 HISTORY OF THEATRICAL DANCING. 3.00 points.
Focuses on the history of theatre dance forms originating in Europe and America from the Renaissance to the present. Includes reading, writing, viewing, and discussion of sources such as film, text, original documentation, demonstration, and performance

DNCE BC3570 Latin American and Caribbean Dance: Identities in Motion. 3 points.

Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Examines the history and choreographic features of Latin American and Caribbean dance forms. Dances are analyzed in order to uncover the ways in which dancing shapes national, racial, and gender identities. Focuses on the globalization of these dances in New York City.

DNCE BC3574 Inventing the Contemporary: Dance Since the 1960s. 3 points.

Explores modern/contemporary dance in the United States and Europe since the 1960's. Major units are devoted to the Judson Dance Theater and its postmodernist aftermath, Tanztheater and European dance revisionism, and African-American dance and the articulation of an aesthetic of cultural hybridity.

DNCE BC3578 Traditions of African-American Dance. 3 points.

Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Traces the development of African-American dance, emphasizing the contribution of black artists and the influence of black traditions on American theatrical dance. Major themes include the emergence of African-American concert dance, the transfer of vernacular forms to the concert stage, and issues of appropriation, cultural self-identification, and artistic hybridity.

DNCE BC3583 Gender and Historical Memory in American Dance of the 1930's to the Early 1960's. 3 points.

Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: One course in dance history/studies or permission of the instructor.
Explores the question of why so many women dancer/choreographers of the 1930's - to the early 1960's, including relatively well-known ones, have ended up as peripheral rather than central players in what has become the master narrative of a crucial era of the recent dance past.

DNCE BC3980 Performing the Political: Embodying Change in American Performance. 4 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: An introductory course in dance or theatre history or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 12 students.
Exploration into the politics of performance and the performance of politics through the lens of 20th-century American dance.

Cross-Listed Courses - Urban Studies

DNCE BC2570 Dance in New York City. 3 points.

Study of the cultural roots and historical contexts of specific communities using New York City's dance scene as a laboratory. Students observe the social environments in which various modes of dance works are created while researching the history of dance in New York City. Course includes attendance at weekly events, lecture-demonstrations, and performances.