HAMPSHIRE DANCE COURSES
NEW FOR SPRING 2019

Examining and Reimagining Contemporary U.S. Arts Ecologies
Deborah Goffe MW 10:30AM 11:50AM
How does one sustain a life in the arts? While this question looms large for lovers of the arts, a host of other questions lurk just beneath the surface: How is success defined and redefined? Where are the points of entry and who are the gatekeepers? How do performance, making, educational, community-engaged, curatorial, and scholarly practices relate to one another and to the organizational structures that support them? What is the role of place? Drawing inspiration from the interconnectedness inherent in ecological frameworks, this course will function as a think tank of sorts, inviting dialogue around the evolution of existing arts infrastructures and our place in their futures. Through critical discourse, research and entrepreneurial strategies, and with special emphasis on performing arts, we will imagine holistic and innovative approaches to sustained arts engagement that are responsive to social, cultural and economic realities. Geared for upper Division II & III aspiring practitioners, administrators, entrepreneurs, curators, scholars, cultural critics, and advocates of the arts.

Protest Traditions in African American Dance: African-American Social and Performance History
Amy Jordan MW 02:30PM 03:50PM
African American dance and music traditions have played a critical role in the African-American struggle to sustain its humanity and to express joy and pain corporeally and through a particular relationship to rhythm. This class will explore the forms, contents and contexts of black traditions that played a crucial role in shaping American dance; looking to how expressive cultural forms from the African diaspora have been transferred from the social space to the concert stage. Viewing American cultural history through the lens of movement and performance, we will begin with an exploration of social and spiritual dances during slavery and the late nineteenth century when vibrant social dances insisted that black bodies, generally relegated to long hours of strenuous labor, devote themselves to pleasure as well. The bulk of the course will focus on African American protest traditions. This course will provide a strong foundation for students who want to pursue Africana Studies and will acquaint students with methodologies utilized in performance and historical studies.

Modern-Contemporary Dance Technique 4: Advanced Intermediate Level
Lailly Weidman TTH 01:00PM 02:20PM
Modern-Contemporary 4 is designed for advanced-intermediate level dancers, as we continue to build on students’ previous study of modern dance technique. The studio will be our laboratory for a semester-long exploration of contemporary dance concepts with a focus on deepening sensation, clarifying points of initiation in the body, expansive use of space, and increasingly complex phrase-work. In motion, we will find dynamic relationships between periphery and center, time and weight, gravity and support-giving continued attention to alignment, spatial clarity, breath, range of motion, and the development of strength and stamina. Partnering and hands-on exercises will also expand options for moving through space. Through writing prompts and conversation, you will be asked to reflect on the histories and knowledge you bring into class, articulate learning ambitions, and track new developments. The goal of this course is to support a sustainable and deeply engaged movement practice-one that may inform the development of a lifetime of embodied creative process. Two half dance courses may be used to satisfy a Division I elective.

Making Dances 1: Choreographic Laboratory
Lailly Weidman MW 02:30PM 03:50PM
This course invites students to dive into choreographic thinking, movement generation, experimentation, and dance-making research. The word choreography originally meant fixed movement onto the page through notation. Today, choreography refers to a wide variety of activities including improvisation, articulating ideas through movement, instigating public interventions, creating problems to be solved in motion, and exploring stillness. Through weekly dance-making assignments—both solo and collaborative—students will produce choreographic studies that address specific concepts, lenses, and methods for crafting dance. We will reflect together on one another’s work and practice giving generative and generous feedback. Final projects will evolve over the latter portion of the semester and be performed in an informal showing. Other requirements include viewing live performances and dance on video, readings, and reflective writing prompts. No previous experience in dance is required. Concurrent study of dance technique is encouraged.

Moving Questions, Writing Dancing: Approaches to Critical Dance Studies
Dasha Chapman TTH 10:00AM 11:50AM
How do we ask questions with our bodies? What does dance do in the world and how can it help us understand social identities? What does it mean to write dance and why would we want to do it? This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of critical dance studies and its historical, ethnographic, and theoretical approaches. Dance Studies offers us a way to sharpen our awareness of the impacts of dancing both on and off stage, while also developing our ability to analyze bodies in socio-cultural context. Centered on an exploration of the relationship between theory and practice, we will study many different forms of dance and movement through readings, viewings, discussions, our own embodied practices, interaction with artists and attendance at live performances. Our investigations will be grounded by attention to race, gender, sexuality, nation, class, ability and ethnicity.

Modern-Contemporary Dance Technique 2: Advanced Beginning Level
Lucille Jun MW 01:00PM 02:20PM
Modern-Contemporary Dance Technique 2 is an advanced-beginning level class, which will deepen foundational experience with modern and contemporary dance techniques. The studio will be our laboratory as we explore a wide range of modern dance concepts with a focus on sensation, initiation, expansive use of space, efficiency, safety, connectivity and embodiment of phrase work. Along the way, we will also bring attention to alignment, spatial clarity, use of breath, increasing range of motion and the development of strength and stamina as way to nurture sustainable and deeply engaged dance practice.