

Dance

A Five College Department

Mount Holyoke Faculty

Professors Coleman (*FCDD chair*), C. Flachs, R. Flachs, Freedman (*chair*); Lecturer/Musician Jones; Visiting Artists Devi, Hilberman, Madden, McLaughlin, Salyers, Sylla, Trenner, Vega, Weber, Wolfzahn

Five College Faculty

Professors Blum (Smith), Hill (FCDD), Lowell (Hampshire), Nordstrom (Hampshire), Woodson (Amherst); Associate Professor Brown (UMass); Assistant Professor Tome (Smith); Visiting Lecturer Dennis (UMass); Musicians Arslanian (UMass), Vargas (Smith)

Contact Persons

Joan Perez, *senior administrative assistant*
Terese Freedman, *chair*

The Five College Dance Department combines the programs of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The faculty meets to coordinate curricula, course scheduling, performances, and other services. The Five College Dance Department supports a variety of philosophical approaches to dance and provides an opportunity for students to experience a wide spectrum of performance styles and techniques. Course offerings are coordinated among the campuses to facilitate registration, interchange, and student travel; students may take a dance course on any of the five campuses and receive credit at their home institution. Each semester, a listing of the current Five College dance courses, with specified times and locations, is available online at <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/dance/courses1/>.

The Major

How does the body speak? What physical practices and aesthetic principles inform the embodiment and mastery of different dance

techniques? How do particular cultural and historical traditions shape the language of dance expression? How is choreography inspired and developed, and what are the key tools of its craft? The dance major offers the opportunity to investigate these and other questions through a comprehensive curriculum emphasizing a balance between technical training, creative experimentation, and critical/theoretical understanding. The major requirements are sufficiently flexible to accommodate the interests of serious dance performers and students with choreographic and/or interdisciplinary interests. There are also numerous offerings for students with little or no prior exposure to dance, as well as opportunities to minor in dance. The department is renowned for its extensive studio offerings in ballet technique, modern technique, and repertory/performance, as well as its rotating offerings in West African dance, tap, jazz, Indian classical dance, contact improvisation, musical theatre, and other forms. Theory courses range from Scientific Foundations of Dance to Twentieth-Century Dance History, Analysis of Rhythm and Choreography. This range of courses is further augmented by more than 100 theory and studio courses offered annually through the Five College Dance Department.

The major considering a performing career or graduate school should work closely with the dance faculty when developing her program. Daily technique class is strongly advised and intensive summer study is recommended. Students at MHC may choose to combine dance with other fields of study to develop interdisciplinary or special majors.

Requirements for the Major

Majors, minors, and special majors are required to crew one MHC dance concert.

Credits

- A minimum of 45 credits

Courses

Required courses for the major:

- Dance 171: Twentieth Century Dance History (4 cr)
- Dance 241: Scientific Foundations of Dance -(4 cr)
- Dance 272: Dance and Culture
- Dance 151: Elementary Composition (4 cr)
- One 200-level theory course from the following (4 cr):
 - Dance 252: Intermediate Composition (4 cr)
 - Dance 287: Analysis of Rhythm from a Dancer's Perspective (4 cr)
 - Dance 255: Dance Pedagogy (4 cr)
 - Dance 285: Laban Movement Analysis (4 cr)
- Two 300-level theory courses from the following (8 cr):
 - Dance 309: Repertory and Theory or Classical Ballet Variations (4 cr)
 - Dance 342: Advanced Scientific Foundations(4 cr)
 - Dance 353: Advanced Composition (4 cr)
 - Dance 387: Advanced Analysis of Rhythm from a Dancer's Perspective (4 cr)
 - Dance 377: Advanced Studies, Special Topics (4 cr)
 - Dance 392: Dance Pedagogy Teaching Seminar (4 cr)
- Eight 2-credit dance courses (16 cr), including technique, repertory (Dance 305), or special topics courses. Students may repeat technique and repertory courses for credit. Technique classes must be from at least two idioms. Up to 8 credits of this requirement can be substituted with 4 credit theory courses, one at the 200 level, and one at the 300 level.

In some cases, courses from other departments may be substituted for above, with the approval of the chair of the department.

Senior Honors Thesis Requirements and Procedures

Dance 395 fs (8 credits, 4 credits per semester)

A student interested in pursuing an honors thesis must submit a detailed project proposal the spring semester of her junior year. If the project is approved by the full department, research work begins in the summer and extends over both semesters of her senior year, culminating in the presentation of a longer work of original choreography and creative process paper or a scholarly research paper. For more information, see Thesis under the major and minor listing at left on the dance department website.

Requirements for the Minor

The dance minor is intended to provide a well-rounded and in-depth introduction to dance as an art form. All minors must be approved by the department chair. Additionally, minors must serve on crew for dance concerts.

Credits

- A minimum of 24 credits

Courses:

- Dance 171: Twentieth Century History (4 cr)
- Dance 241: Scientific Foundations of Dance (4 cr)
- Dance 151: Elementary Composition (4 cr)
- Dance 272: Dance and Culture
- A minimum of two courses of dance technique or repertory (Dance 305) (4 cr)
- An additional 4 credits at the 300 level, either in theory or technique (4 cr)

Please consult the Five College Dance Department website at <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/dance> for up-to-date listings, faculty, and guest artists.

Course Offerings

Dance Theory

101s Introduction to Dance - First-Year Seminar: Dance as an Art Form

This course offers an experiential introduction to dance as a performing art. Its goals are to provide students with an understanding of the body as a source of movement, imagery, and expression, and to broaden students' capacities for seeing, describing, and interpreting dance. No previous formal dance training is required. Course work will include regular movement practice, a series of introductory master classes in different dance idioms, video and concert viewings, experiments in group improvisation and choreography, and readings on the aesthetic and cultural contexts of different dance traditions.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

The department

4 credits

151f Elementary Composition

A study of the principles and elements of choreography through improvisation and composition assignments.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

T. Freedman

4 credits

*154fs Community Crossover

This introductory course will train students to teach dance in such settings as senior centers, hospitals, health clinics, and youth recreation centers. In the studio, students will learn how to construct classes for specific community sites. Selected videos and readings will provide a context for discussion and assist in the development of individual students' teaching styles.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

4 credits

*171s Dance in the Twentieth Century

Dance history is a microcosm of world history. It reflects the political and social issues of everyday life and cannot be examined in isolation. This course will delve into that microcosm and identify dancers, seminal works, and choreographers who, along with catalysts

of the genre, support, and define the world of dance in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Investigation will start with the beginnings of ballet in the time of Louis 14th and culminate with an analysis of current trends, styles, and connections encouraging students to see how past events influence future practicalities. Class work will consist of lecture, media presentation, and discussion.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

C. Flachs

4 credits

*241f Scientific Foundations of Dance

Selected scientific aspects of dance, including anatomical identification and terminology, physiological principles, and conditioning/strengthening methodology. These concepts are discussed and explored experientially in relationship to the movement vocabularies of various dance styles.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

T. Freedman

4 credits

252s Intermediate Composition

This course will continue developing the compositional tools and approaches to choreography introduced in Elementary Composition, including phrasing, formal design, and counterpoint. The context for this work will be sound, sound design, and musical structure as a basis for choreography. Beginning with simple experiments in listening and moving, voice work, rhythm, syncopation, and counterpoint/polyphony, students will go on to explore and develop short choreographic projects inspired by four different musical traditions: minimalism, classical/baroque, pop/contemporary, and sound collage/found sounds.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

J. Coleman, P. Jones

4 credits

255s Dance Pedagogy

Spring 2012

255s(1) Explorations

This course explores the pedagogical methods and materials used for teaching dance. Course work is geared towards uncovering and understanding the elements in ways that

will build towards a cohesive curriculum for a dance course. The course includes, but is not limited to, the following: formulating lesson plans stating goals with physical and intellectual progression; studying teaching methodologies and philosophies; observing classes; teaching practicum with faculty mentoring; and articulating personal statements for teaching.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
The department
 4 credits

**255s(2) Ballet*

This course surveys the principles of teaching classical ballet, examines local dance arts education, and implements a community outreach program incorporating classical ballet. The course studies the teaching philosophy of Agrippina Vaganova and the work of local arts organizations that specialize in inspiring learning for children through the arts. It will provide an introduction to planning lessons and workshops and to presenting research in both a serious training atmosphere and a recreational community setting. Requirements include student teaching at the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet and designing a community outreach project with a community partner in South Hadley or Holyoke.

R. Flachs, C. Flachs
 4 credits

272s Dance and Culture

What are the functions that dance serves in society? How does the dancing body signify cultural values? How is dance a vehicle for the articulation of cultural identities? This course attempts to answer these questions from the perspective of dance anthropology and, on occasion, dance history. We will analyze documentaries and texts that illustrate the diverse manners in which dance ethnographers and historians approach the study of dance as a cultural expression. Balancing breadth and depth, the course focuses on a handful of dance forms from North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
L. Tome
 4 credits

287f Rhythmic Analysis I

The study of music from a dancer's perspective. Topics include musical notation, construction of rhythm, elements of composition (visual aspects of music and movement), communication between dancer and musician, and music listening.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
P. Jones
 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Students interested in independent study in dance (Dance 295) must provide convincing reasons for pursuing independent work and be self motivated and directed in their work. Students are responsible for choosing and receiving approval from a faculty advisor, with whom workload expectations, meeting times, and outcomes will be mutually negotiated and set for the semester. Credit load (1-4) will reflect the workload level and outcomes of the proposed study (e.g., a 2-credit independent study requires a minimum of 2-4 hours of outside work each week).

Does not meet a distribution requirement
The department
Prereq. soph, jr, sr, and permission of department; 1-4 credits

305f Dance Repertory

Fall 2011

305f(1) Ballet Repertory

This course is designed for advanced students interested in performing. The work developed will be performed on the fall Faculty Concert.

R. Flachs
Prereq. Advanced placement; 2 credits

305f(2) Modern Repertory

This course is designed for advanced students interested in performing. The work developed will be performed on the fall Faculty Concert.

T. Freedman, J. Coleman
Prereq. By audition; 2 credits

305f(3) Classical Indian Repertory

This course is designed for advanced students interested in performing. The work devel-

oped will be performed on the fall Faculty Concert.

R. Devi

Prereq. By audition; 2 credits

***305f(4) Tango Repertory**

Tango-based performance class culminating in a piece for the Faculty Dance Concert in November 2008. Argentine tango, the sensual and elegant social dance of the city of Buenos Aires, is experiencing a worldwide revival. Open to dancers who have diverse backgrounds, are interested in performance, and love dancing collaboratively with others, either on stage or socially. The piece will include elements of tango and other partner forms. Dancers will work with choreography, improvisation, and scores combining the two modalities. The first class will serve as an audition; the instructor will then confirm your registration.

D. Trenner

Prereq. audition; 2 credits

309s Dance Repertory: Classical Ballet Variations

This course is designed for intermediate- to advanced-level dance students who wish to study classical ballet variations. The course examines the evolution of classical ballet choreography and compares and contrasts the many revivals and remakes of classical full-length productions. Students will learn variations from classical ballets. Requirements outside of the classroom include viewing videotapes, researching choreography, and participating in lecture demonstrations. Pointe shoes are required.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

R. Flachs

4 credits

***342s Advanced Scientific Foundations of Dance**

This course will continue the investigation of human movement through biomechanics, anatomy, and physiology. After a brief review of the musculoskeletal system (the main focus of Dance 241), we will examine a number of fundamental principles as they apply to the dancing body. Emphasis will be placed on oral presentation of selected topics. Additional topics to include: body therapies, in-

jury prevention and rehabilitation, and other systems.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

T. Freedman

Prereq. Dance 241; 4 credits

353fs Comp III: Senior Choreography Lab

This course will provide advanced choreographers with an opportunity to research, develop, and complete a new work, to be presented on an informal concert at the end of the semester. Improvisational and choreographic experiments, video screenings, and select readings, focusing on key issues from the collective research, will supplement regular, works-in-process critiques.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

J. Coleman

Prereq. Significant prior choreographic experience and permission of the instructor; All students are expected to submit a preliminary project proposal at the beginning of the course.; 4 credits

377f Advanced Studies: Twentieth-Century American Dance: Sixties Vanguard to Nineties Hip-Hop

This survey of twentieth-century American dance moves from the sixties—a decade of revolt and redefinition in American modern dance that provoked new ideas about dance, the dancer's body, and a radically changed dance aesthetic—to the radical postmodernism of the nineties, when the body continued to be the site for debates about the nature of gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. We will investigate how the political and social environment, particularly the civil rights/black power movement, anti-war/student movement, and the women's movement, with its proliferation of feminist performance works, informed the work of succeeding generations of dance artists.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

C. Hill

4 credits

***387fs Rhythmic Analysis II: Performance**

A continuation of Dance 287. The focus now shifts specifically to performance and the notation of complex rhythmic structures. Working as an ensemble, the class will create a music/dance suite, using body music, movement, vocal work, and music visualiza-

tion as our inspiration. Emphasis will be placed on odd and mixed meters and rhythmic accuracy. Students will contribute both movement and musical material. Class time will be run like a professional rehearsal. Outside work will focus on musical research, choreography and music notation. This suite will be performed at Blanchard Campus Center at a date to be determined.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

P. Jones

Prereq. Dance 287; 4 credits

390s Senior Seminar

This course is required of all senior dance majors. Course work covers a range of topics related to the senior projects of the participants, as well as research methods, choreographic critiques, and strategies for peer mentoring. Course work also focuses on preparation for post-graduation, including resume writing, video documentation of choreography, personal website design, concert production and publicity, and developing connections with MHC and FCDD alumni. In addition, the latter part of the semester will focus on the collective creation of a new choreographic work to be presented on the Commencement Concert.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. sr; 1 credit

395fs Independent Study

Students interested in independent study in dance (Dance 395) must provide convincing reasons for pursuing independent work and be self motivated and directed in their work. Students are responsible for choosing and receiving approval from a faculty advisor, with whom workload expectations, meeting times, and outcomes will be mutually negotiated and set for the semester. Credit load (1-4) will reflect the workload level and outcomes of the proposed study (e.g., a 2-credit independent study requires a minimum of 2-4 hours of outside work each week).

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph, jr, sr, and permission of department; 1-8 credits

Performance Studies

***103s Traditional Irish Dance**

Traditional Irish dance has a long and colorful history. The various Irish dance styles — set dancing, step dancing, sean-nos dance, ceili dance — reflect historical trends in Ireland as well as the spirit and culture of the Irish people. This course will introduce the dance techniques, repertoire, and style of traditional Irish dance in its various forms. Mini-lectures and video showings will provide background and context for the dances. Class may be divided into two sections to accommodate different levels of experience.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

K. Jordan

2 credits

***104fs Pilates**

Pilates is a method of physical and mental conditioning. It is a unique method of toning, stretching, and strengthening. It utilizes special apparatus to achieve balance in the body and create harmony of body, mind and spirit. Joseph Pilates, who came to the U.S. in the 1920s, originally developed the Pilates method. The goal of this course will be to use specific Pilates exercises to strengthen and elongate muscles, improve bodily alignment, and solidify kinesthetic awareness. This course will focus on creating a conditioning routine that is suited for students interested in improving their ballet and modern technique. Assignments will include readings and a final paper.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Madden

2 credits

113f Beginning Modern

An introduction to the basic principles of dance movement: body alignment, coordination, strength and flexibility, basic forms of locomotion. No previous dance experience required.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

S. Simpson

2 credits

114s Advanced Beginning Modern

Advanced beginning modern technique. The course will concentrate on aspects of strength, flexibility, and anatomical integra-

tion in order to improve technical skills. Improvisation as well as various body therapies will be included in the class format.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
T. Freedman
2 credits

119s Beginning Contact Improvisation

Contact improvisation is a duet movement form that explores communicating through the language of touch, momentum, and weight. Classes will develop simple solo and duet skills - rolling, falling, balance, counter-balance, jumping, weight sharing, and spirals.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
F. Wolfzahn
2 credits

120f Beginning Ballet

Students will be taught the basic movements and fundamentals of classical dance. The movements will be taught in a pure form, at a relaxed pace before proceeding to more complex combinations. Ballet I sets the groundwork for the musicality of the ballet lesson.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
R. Flachs
2 credits

121s Advanced Beginning Ballet

A continuation of the knowledge gained in Ballet I. The class will emphasize maintaining correct body placement, coordination of the arms and head while using the whole body for dance. Curriculum covered will include the small and big classical poses and an increase in the allegro portion of the class.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
M. Madden
2 credits

127fs Renaissance and Baroque Dance I

(See Music 147f(D))

Does not meet a distribution requirement
N. Monahin, M. Pash
1 credit

132f Beginning Hip-Hop

This class will introduce students to the basic elements of various styles of hip-hop dance including breaking, popping, locking, and contemporary music video style. In addition, students will learn the history of hip-hop-Rs four elements: breaking, MCing, DJing, and

graffiti. Each class will start with a warm-up focusing on hip-hop fundamentals, and conclude with a short combination fusing these diverse styles together.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
J. Weber
1 credit

137f Beginning Tap

Tap I approaches tap dance from the very beginning (the most fun of all!), learning basic vocabulary, developing a sense of rhythm, and understanding the immediate and historical connection between tap dance and jazz music. Class will include periodic video showings and lecture/demonstrations regarding tap dance history and styles.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
J. Hilberman
1 credit

142fs West African Dance

The objectives of the course are for students to understand the profound influence African dance has had on American dance forms, to understand the significance of dance in African culture, and to understand the connection between drummer and dancer and to appreciate and respect a culture that is different yet similar in many ways to American culture.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
M. Sylla, S. Sylla
2 credits

***143s Classical Indian Dance**

This course is an introduction to the basic patterns of formal Indian classical dance movement that include gestures and facial expression in expressive and mimetic interpretations through poetry, music compositions, and rhythmic structures. A study of mudras (hand gestures) will include practice and memorizing an established vocabulary of gestures from a ninth-century classical dance text. Using these gestures we will explore their application within a traditional/contemporary framework of movement, poetry, and spoken ideas. Readings and videos will be assigned to augment class work for historical, religious, and cultural understanding of dance in India.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
R. Devi

2 credits

144f Tango

Argentine Tango is the sensual and elegant social dance of the city of Buenos Aires, which is experiencing a worldwide revival. Cuban Salsa Rueda is a unique Salsa Game developed in Havana, Cuba. Class will include the steps, the history, and anecdotes about the culture of tango and salsa. We will cover traditional and modern forms. All dancers will learn lead and follow, so you do not need a partner. Wear leather-soled shoes or bring socks.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

D. Trenner

3 hour class once a week.; 2 credits

*147s Arabic Tribal Fusion

Tribal Fusion is rooted in the nomadic dance tradition of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The form has strong roots in women's styles of Arabic folk dance and the vocabulary includes the influences of Rom (Gypsy) dance styles from India to Europe, Spanish, Flamenco, African tribal forms and more recently, American hip hop, punk and gothic cultures.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

D. Mejia

1 credit

215f Intermediate Modern

Practice in personal skills (mobilizing weight, articulating joints, finding center, increasing range, and incorporating strength) and movement expressivity (phrasing, dynamics, and rhythmic acuity).

Does not meet a distribution requirement

T. Freedman

2 credits

216fs Intermediate Advanced Modern

Continued training in modern dance techniques and theories. Designed for students with a strong technical foundation.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

P. Dennis, C. McLaughlin

1 credit

222f Intermediate Ballet

At this level, class will include a logical and efficient development of exercises culminating with varied allegro combinations. The

class will provide the student the opportunity to acquire endurance and learn artistic expression. The importance of musicality within the technique will be a fundamental aspect of the class.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

C. Flachs

2 credits

223s Intermediate Ballet

Continues to perfect the classical ballet technique, concentrating on small and big poses at the barre, pirouettes and adagio work in the big poses in the center, and jumps in the small and big poses in the allegro section of the class. More complex grand allegro will be presented.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

C. Flachs, R. Flachs

2 credits

232f Intermediate Hip-Hop

Journey through time and experience the evolution of hip-hop from its old-school social dance roots to the contemporary phenomenon of commercial choreography that hip-hop has become. Using film and text in addition to studio work, this class will create a framework from which to understand and participate in the global culture of hip-hop dance.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

J. Weber

1 credit

*233f Intermediate Jazz

Emphasis on extended movement phrases, complex musicality, and development of jazz dance style.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

2 credits

*237f Advanced Beginning Tap

Tap II expands the vocabulary skills of the beginner, and seeks to increase speed and technical ability while deepening the dancer's connection to music. Class will include periodic video showings and lecture/demonstrations regarding tap dance history and styles.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

J. Hilberman

1 credit

317f Advanced Modern

Advanced study in modern technique focuses on body-level issues of strength, support, alignment, articulation, initiation, and performance issues of rhythmic and spatial clarity, intention, embodiment, intricate coordinations, and expanding personal vocabularies. The course is taught by a rotating array of guest artists offering students experience and insight into a variety of stylistic traditions in contemporary dance technique.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Students must pass the Advanced

Placement Audition to enroll in this course.; 2 credits

318s Advanced Modern

This course focuses on the integration of technique and repertory and will introduce students to a variety of contemporary technical and performing styles in modern dance.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

C. McLaughlin

Prereq. advanced placement; 2 credits

324f Advanced Ballet

Emphasizes stability (aplomb) in various turning movements and exercises done on demi-pointe and full pointe. The students will work on improving their classical form through emphasis placed on the plasticity of the arms and torso. As the semester progresses, all possible approaches to the given movements will be developed. At this level the musical interpretation will enhance the complexity of the ballet exercises. The last half hour of class will be devoted to strengthening pointe technique.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

C. Flachs, R. Flachs

Prereq. advanced placement; 2 credits

325s Advanced Ballet

Course is for advanced dancers and will stress complex classical ballet technique combinations, concentrating on turns at the barre, turns in the big poses in the centre, and batterie in the allegro. Artistry, presentation, and musicality of dance will be incorporated, with the grande allegro serving as the focus of the class. The last half hour will be devoted to advanced pointe technique.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

R. Flachs, C. Flachs

Prereq. advanced placement; 2 credits

337f Intermediate/Advanced Tap

In this intermediate/advance class, students will focus on continued development of technical skills, understanding basic jazz music forms, developing a vocabulary of 'trick' or 'flash' steps, and gaining a historical perspective on tap dance. Class will include periodic video showings and lecture/demonstrations regarding tap dance history and styles.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

J. Hilberman

Second part of Monday class; 1 credit