

Syllabus for  
**DANP 108—Improvisation II**  
1 Credit Hour  
Spring 2024

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores partnering, contact improvisation, improvisation as a creative tool for choreography, and performance improvisation.

Prerequisite: DANP 107 and Permission of the department.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. To explore and refine the creation of original movement with an emphasis on drawing from one's individual uniqueness and background
- B. To apply the following elements: space, shape, time, and effort movement with an informed approach
- C. To demonstrate improvisation as both a tool for composition and as a performance art, especially in preparation for choreography
- D. To gain skills in the areas of partnering, contact improvisation, and site specific Work
- E. To discover ways of integrating a Christian worldview with Improvisation, specifically in the Final Projects of this course

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program

- A. Dance
  - a. Dance Outcome 1: The student will create and defend choreographic works exploring choreographic form, communication of an idea, and elements of movement: space, shape, time and effort.
  - b. Dance Outcome 2: The student will demonstrate advanced skill level III in ballet or modern dance in alignment, artistry, connectivity, physical capacity, movement principles, musicality and agency.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page [only list the University Outcomes addressed by this course]

- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit

- E. Bold Vision

## V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

### A. Required Materials

Textbooks:

Buckwalter, Melinda. *Composing While Dancing: an Improviser's Companion*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2010.

## VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.
2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
  - a. Inform the professor before the event.
  - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
  - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
  - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.

### B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures:

- a. Attendance
- b. Accomplishment of Course Objectives: 75%  
(Assignments 35% and Exams 40%)
- c. Attitude and Effort: 25%
- 2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None
- 3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

Course Requirements

- a. **Attire:** Please refer to the Dance Department Handbook for complete information. This class is required to have bare feet.
- b. **Assignments:**  
Students are required to keep a journal for this course. This journal should consist of class notes, journal assignments, and at least 10 personal entries spread out over the semester. These should each be at least one notebook page long. The folder should be available for the instructor's review at anytime.
- c. **Ensemble Auditions:** All dance majors are required to participate in all Dance Ensemble auditions and in any other departmental auditions for experience. **(Please refer to the Dancer Handbook for further details)**
- d. **Evaluations:**
  - (1) Movement evaluations: Students will be graded on their technical/artistic performance to provide feedback concerning whether the student has attained to the objectives of this course. The content of the evaluation classes will consist of material already given during the semester.
  - (2) Self/Peer-evaluations: Students may participate in self-evaluations and peer evaluations throughout the semester.
  - (3) Throughout the semester, students may be given written quizzes covering concepts and vocabulary discussed in class.
- e. Each student should be prepared and ready to dance five minutes before the scheduled class time.
- f. Dance Class Format: The improvisation dance class format is as follows:  
(1) Improvisation and Feedback
- g. Attire: See Dance handbook
- h. For prolonged injury procedure, please see Dance Handbook.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

**Reading assignments/journal**

Weeks 1-4 **Elements of movement, props, sound, and solo/group work**  
Wk 5 Review and Test

Weeks 6-8 **Contact improvisation**  
Week 9 Review and Test

Weeks 10-13 **Partnering methods**  
Week 14 Review and Test **Final projects**

**Primary Program: Dance  
DANP 108—Improvisation II  
Spring 2024**

This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

| OUTCOMES  | Significant | Moderate | Minimal |
|---|-------------|----------|---------|
| <b>Spiritual Integrity</b>  |             |          |         |
| <b>Personal Resilience</b>  |             |          |         |
| Dance Outcome 2: The student will demonstrate advanced skill level III in ballet or modern dance in alignment, artistry, connectivity, physical capacity, movement principles, musicality and agency. |             | X        |         |
| DANP 108 Outcome D: To gain skills in the areas of partnering, contact improvisation, and site specific work  | X           |          |         |
|   |             |          |         |
|   |             |          |         |
| <b>Intellectual Pursuit</b>   |             |          |         |
| DANP 108 Outcome B: To apply the following elements: space, shape, time, and effort movement with an informed approach  | X           |          |         |
| <b>Global Engagement</b>  |             |          |         |
| <b>Bold Vision</b>  |             |          |         |
| Dance Outcome 1: The student will create and defend choreographic works exploring choreographic form, communication of an idea, and elements of movement: space, shape, time and effort.              | X           |          |         |
| DANP 108 Outcome A: To explore and refine the creation of original movement with an emphasis on drawing from one's individual uniqueness and background   | X           |          |         |
| DANP 108 Outcome C: To demonstrate improvisation as both a tool for composition and as a performance art, especially in preparation for choreography  | X           |          |         |
| DANP 108 Outcome E: To discover ways of integrating a Christian worldview with Improvisation, specifically in the Final Projects of this course   | X           |          |         |