Stephen F. Austin State University

Department of Kinesiology and Health Science/Dance Program

CRN 10851, DANC 4380-1 Choreographic Project

Fall 2021

Instructor: Heather Samuelson  
Time and Location: M 4-5:15, W 4-6:30, HPE 224

Office: 211  
Office Hours: TH 9-10:30 am, 1-2:30 pm

Office Phone: 936 468-1614  
Credits: 3

Department Phone: 936 468-2283  
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Prerequisites: 6 hours of dance and the approval from the instructor.

Co-requisite: DAN360-Danceworks and regular attendance in a level II or higher dance technique course.

I. Course Description:

The student will research a conceptual topic for dance choreography. Upon gathering research, the student will develop substantial choreography, inspired by the research, in a dance genre that is complementary to the examination of the chosen topic and present the choreographic work in a full concert setting.

Students should expect a response to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours from their contact efforts. This is only available Monday through Friday.

The James I. Perkins College of Education is committed to proactively recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff, and student population. Through open dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility, faculty, staff, and students will demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to ethnicity, race, gender, exceptionalities, culture, language/dialect, age, social class, family structure, sexual orientation, religion, and spiritual values in order to enhance the quality of life in a diverse, global community.

Course Justification:

Choreographic Projects/Senior Seminar (3 credits) meets 150 minutes per week for 15 weeks. Course assessments are both theoretical and practical. Students are assessed through production of a major choreographic presentation and full-length dance concert. Students are required to research approved topics, utilize additional practice and rehearsal outside of class (2-4 hours per week) in assigned locations. Students must maintain attendance records for each dancer in their cast. Students must secure sponsors or donors, create lighting and technical elements for
each piece, design and create publicity for the concert, produce the dates, show order, and lobby display for the final event. This equates to a minimum of 2 hours per week outside of class per credit hour of research and preparation. 150 minutes of Asynchronous minutes are applied to this course.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:

These goals support and reflect the College of Education’s Vision, Mission, and Core Values in that they equip those candidates seeking “to achieve professional excellence” with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that “prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, and continued professional and intellectual development”. This course supports the Dance Program Mission Statement related to achieving a high level of creative potential. The complete listing of the standards associated with the PLOs, SLOs, assignments, and assessments are located on the PCOE website.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Dance Technique The student will be able to execute intermediate/advanced level ballet, modern dance and jazz dance techniques. (Active)

2. Dance Production The student will be able to identify and apply production values necessary for concert dance, including lighting, sound, costuming, and publicity. (Active)

3. Choreography The student will be able to identify, distinguish and apply the variety of choreographic devices, structures and forms used in contemporary concert dance. (Active)

4. Dance Kinesiology The student will be able to apply concepts of dance kinesiology to performance and analysis of dance movement. (Active)

5. Rhythmic Analysis The student will be able to identify variations in rhythmic patterns and elements of music such as accents, beats, and phrasing as applied to dance movement. (Active)

6. Dance History The student will identify and discuss seminal works in the development of Western theatrical dance. (Active)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To gain a broader knowledge and experience in choreographic design. (PLO 2,3,5,6).
2. To develop the ability to critique and analyze a movement composition. (PLO 1,6)
3. To develop individuality in manipulating movement as related to phrasing, abstracting, editing and generating compositional ideas. (PLO 1,3,5).
4. To develop the ability to set movement phrases on more than one dancer and enhance skill in the rehearsal and performance process. (PLO 1,4,5).
5. To make informed decisions related to lighting, sound editing, costuming, set design and publicity. (PLO 2).
6. To provide an opportunity to present original choreography in a concert setting. (PLO 1).

For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes see the assessment resource page http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, and use of Technology:

This course will require the student to research an evocative and conceptual topic as a means of inspiration for choreography. **Any research submitted must be in hard copy and should consist of website information, personal written interviews, statistics, video links of other choreography relating to one’s topic, and any book/periodical/etc. from a library.** This project is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to develop a substantial and an original piece of choreography under the supervision and guidance of the dance faculty. The student is required to journal their choreographic process and will be given a series of projects throughout the choreographic process to better the development and generation of movement. The student’s work will be mentored in all stages of the choreographic and production process. The student will be required to have consistent, active participation in technique class as well as coordination of rehearsal. In addition, the student will be fully involved in the production of lighting, costuming, publicity, etc., for the Danceworks concert. The student is not required but encouraged to use technology as a means of reference for structure, design and inspiration towards dance choreography. Any dance that has been deliberately copied or plagiarized from a work found on the internet will result in an automatic failing grade and removal from the concert.

**Injury/Accident Statement:**

This course contains physical activity which may consist of but not limited to running, jumping, lifting, throwing, leaping, striking, etc. Participation in these activities comes with inherent risks of injury. Possible injuries include, but are not limited to heat stroke, strains, sprains, scrapes, bruises, and fractures. By registering and participating I this course, students are aware of the possible injuries that may occur and acknowledge that they participate at their own risk. The university is not responsible for any medical costs associated with any injury
students may sustain; therefore, students are strongly recommended to procure personal health and accident insurance to cover any medical costs. Students are encouraged to notify the instructor of any relevant prior medical history regarding injuries, surgeries, medications, or other considerations which may affect or impair participation in this course. If necessary, students will provide, upon request, a physician’s statement clearing them to participate in this course.

Procedures to be Followed for Injury or Accident of a SFA Student:

1. Administer appropriate first aid.
2. For a major medical emergency, a phone call should be placed to the University Police Department (UPD)(911). UPD will report to the scene of a medical emergency, assist with first aid, and contact an ambulance service.
3. Students may choose to report directly to the Student Health Services for minor first aid needs or routine medical services.
4. If assistance is needed in transporting the injured student, call the UPD non-emergency phone number at 936-468-2608.
5. The instructor should complete an accident report which can be obtained from the department office.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

This course is graded on a Letter Scale system (A, B, C, D, F). As required of the dance program and University policy, the student must make a “C” or higher to pass the course. The project must reflect artistic integrity, professional maturity and successful mentoring process. Failure to meet any of the deadlines or goals will constitute failure in the course.

V. Tentative Course Calendar:

Asynchronous Minutes = AM

April 22, Audition: held in the dance studio, HPE 201. A list of chosen dancers and contact information must be submitted to dance faculty. Showings will occur frequently; be prepared to perform dance at each meeting.

Gather research on chosen topic to submit for evaluation. July – August. AM= 50 minutes.

August 23, 2021- Classes begin. First day of classes and rehearsals. Present some movement material via video or live performance to instructor. Prepare casts for first showing. Seniors begin rehearsals. Turn in hard copies of research over the chosen topic for a grade. Receive sponsorship form and begin asking for sponsors and donations.

August 25, 2021- Attend Danceworks class to go over syllabi for any additional information and notes. Majors/Minors Meeting 5:30pm.
**September 1, Wednesday 1st Showing:** Present 1 minute of choreography that relates to the chosen topic during the Danceworks class. Receive feedback.

**Monday September 6th:** Attendance for the first two weeks due to Robert and Heather via email.

**2nd Showing (September 8):** Choreographers and Dancers- Present manipulated choreography with dancers, paying attention to form, level and facings. Choreography is extended to 1 ½ minutes. Turn in a list of donors/sponsors you approached.

**September 9-11 Heather and students at BCDF**

Gather research on chosen topic to submit for evaluation. August – September. **AM= 50 minutes.**

**3rd Showing (September 15):** Choreographers and Dancers- Present 2 minutes of choreography with dancers, paying attention to spatial design and elements of force and time. Start thinking of music ideas. **Turn in research, Submission #2 to D2L Dropbox.**

**Monday September 20th:** Attendance for weeks 3 & 4 due to Robert and Heather via email.

**4th Showing (September 22):** Choreographers and Dancers- Present extended or cleaned choreography. Continue working spatial design and elements with force and time. Bring music ideas to instructor for approval and have choreography ready to be performed to music at the next showing. Start thinking about costume ideas. You should not have your dancers purchase costumes other than possible shoes or a nude leotard.

**Monday September 27th:** Set up light trees for photo shoot. Wear Closed-toed shoes.

**5th Showing (September 29):** Choreographers and Dancers- Present 2 ½ to 3 ½ minutes of choreography experimenting with music ideas. Have dancers run pieces in prospective costumes/color pallets. Possible publicity photo shoot at 5:30pm. Light trees to be set up during Monday’s class.

Gather research on chosen topic to submit for evaluation. September – October. **AM= 50 minutes.**

**Monday October 4th:** Attendance for weeks 5 & 6 due to Robert and Heather via email. Discuss theme of concert and begin creating a show order. Show order must be turned in by the end of the week. Get photo(s) to Graphics shop for poster design and press release. **Turn in remaining research, Submission #3 to D2L Dropbox.**
6th Showing (October 6): Choreographers should have a cleaned dance, up to 3 ½ minutes, with music. Give instructor a recording of music.

October 11-15 Midterms

Monday October 11th: Begin writing senior bio’s in class. Begin thinking of lighting ideas. Dances have a limit of 4-5 light cues. All Bio’s, for choreographers and dancers, are due by Friday October 15th and should be placed in the provided Dropbox on D2L.

7th Showing (October 13): Choreographers and Dancers- Present 4 minutes of choreography with lighting ideas turned in to Heather. Dances have a limit of 4-5 light cues.

Monday October 18th: Attendance for weeks 7 & 8 due to Robert and Heather via email.

8th Showing (October 20): Choreographers and Dancers- Present cleaned dance (4.5-5 minutes) in show order. Costumes are complete. Hang posters by the end of the week around Nacogdoches, campus, surrounding towns, FB, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.

9th Showing (October 27): Dances Complete. Run the show in show order in costume. Costumes, lighting, and music should be complete and ready on disc.

November 1st: Attendance for weeks 9 & 10 due to Robert and Heather via email.

10th Showing (November 3): Run the show in show order in costume. The week of November 1-5 should be used only for final rehearsals/cleaning.

November 8-11- Technique Juries

November 8-13- Show week!

Monday November 15- Post Production 4-5:15.

November 17- Informal Concert 5-6:30, dance studio.

November 17 & 18 – Dance Workshop in Big Gym 8 am to 4 pm.

Thursday November 18- AUDITIONS for Spring DW, 4-7pm. In the dance studio.

November 20-28: THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 29-Dec. 3: Dead Week

December 3- Big Dip ring ceremony

December 6-10- FINALS WEEK!

December 11, 2021- COMMENCEMENT!!!
Tentative Danceworks Schedule (May be subject to change): November 8-13, 2021

11/8  Set up light trees prior to class, Light Tech full show 4pm. **Dances have a limit of 4-5 light cues.**

11/9  Complete Light Tech if needed 4pm. Dry tech for tech crew. **Dances have a limit of 4-5 light cues.**

11/10  Dress Rehearsal: call 4pm, warm up 4:30-5:30pm, crew sweep 5:45pm, 6pm run the show. Possible second run.

11/11  Opening night: Crew call 4:00pm to mop, Dancer call 5pm, warm up 5:15-6:15pm, Show 7pm.

11/12  Second show. Crew call 4:30pm, Dancer call 5pm, warm up 5:15-6:15pm, show 7pm.

11/13  Final show. Call 1pm, warm up 1:15-2:15pm, show 3pm.

**STRIKE AND MOP MARLEY**

**Attendance:**

Each absence, after 2, will drop the student’s final grade by 1 full letter grade, assuming each student begins the semester with an A. For example: 3 absences = B, 4 absences = C, 5 absences = D. **Any student who has 6 absences or more will result in an automatic failing grade and will not pass the class.** An absence will be excused if the student notifies the instructor via email immediately, and presents a doctor’s note the very next class period that he/she is approved to return to class. Doctor’s notes will not be accepted at the end of the week, month, or semester if the student has already returned to class and forgot to bring the doctor’s note. The same consideration will be given for funerals and University sponsored events. Points will be deducted for students who leave class prior to dismissal. If the student is tardy (more than 10 minutes late), they will be counted absent! **For every 3 tardies, the student will receive 1 absence! Attendance will be strictly enforced.** It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their number of absences.
VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):


VII. Course Evaluations:

“Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the COE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including: 1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; 2. Instruction evaluation purposes’ and 3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!”

In the College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. *Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.*

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies)
Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**
Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

If a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of “WP” or “WH” may be changed to “WF” at the discretion of the faculty member. In the case of a grade change to “WF”, the course will not count towards the six course drop limit since the student is incurring an academic penalty.

**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**
Interference or disruption of students, faculty, administration, staff, the educational mission, or routine operations of the university is prohibited. Such activity includes, but is not limited to, behavior in a classroom or instructional program that interferes with the instructor or presenter’s ability to conduct the class or program, or the ability of others to profit from the class or program. To remain in the vicinity of activity that is disrupting normal university functions when requested to leave by a university official is prohibited. Bystanders, if their presence incites or adds to the disruption, as well as more active participants in the disruptive activity, may be in violation of this policy as well. Engaging in physical violence of any nature against any person. This includes fighting; assaulting; battering; using a knife, gun, or other weapon; or acting in a manner that threatens or endangers the physical health or safety of any person or causes a reasonable apprehension of such harm.

The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program at SFA.
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Additional Information:

Code of Ethics for the Texas Educator:

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification.

Please go to TAC 247.2 – Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators. This can be found at https://texreq.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=Y
To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:

1. Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

   A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual’s self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a non-refundable fee. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification. You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

   - You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
   - You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
   - You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

   You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

   In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation. Additional information can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, driver’s license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html. YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

For further information, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at 936-468-1282 or edprep@sfasu.edu.
IX. Other Relevant Course Information:

Classroom Etiquette

Dance Program Cleaning List for the Studio, Alcove, and Conditioning Room

ALL CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE LOCATED IN THE DANCE STUDIO SOUND CLOSET WHERE THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES. IF SUPPLIES ARE LOW OR EMPTY, PLEASE INFORM THE FRONT OFFICE; THIS INCLUDES THE HAND SANITIZER STATIONS.

Cleaning protocols should be performed before/after each class and rehearsal.

1. To create a clean flow of traffic, please enter the studio through the main door and exit the studio through the back door; located at the back of the studio near the chalk board.

2. Do not loiter in the hallways, alcove, dance studio, or faculty offices. If you do not need to be in the building, please return to your dorm/apartment or enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces on campus. If you have a half hour break, you will need to leave the building and then return 5 minutes before class or rehearsal.

3. Disinfecting wipes will be used to clean the ballet barres. 2-4 dancers, wearing gloves, need to clean the barres before/after each class and rehearsal regardless if they were used or not.

4. Disinfecting spray or wipes will be used to clean ALL door handles, inside and out, and light switches. 2 dancers, wearing gloves, are needed.

5. Locker handles and the interior of the lockers MUST be sprayed with disinfectant spray after every use.

6. 2 dancers will sweep the dance studio floor using the push brooms in the sound closet. The debris will be thrown away in the dance studio trash can NOT the trash can in the sound closet.

7. All hard surfaces in the sound closet are to be wiped down with disinfectant wipes and the cubby holes are to be sprayed with the disinfectant spray. 2-4 dancers, wearing gloves, will clean this space.
8. The sound box will need to be wiped down with a disinfectant wipe, inside and out. The sound box is not available to students after hours. You must provide your own speaker for your rehearsals.

9. Equipment in the conditioning room is only to be wiped down with the vinegar solution located in the spray bottle on the sink. Any other chemicals can damage the equipment.

10. The last class or rehearsal in the space is responsible for throwing away the trash. 1-2 dancers are need to remove the trash from the studio/alcove/conditioning room and throw it away in the dumpster. The dumpster is located outside of the HPE in the front corner of the faculty parking lot.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

1. Please be on time. It is considered disrespectful to walk into a dance class late. If the student is tardy, he/she should first ask the instructor for permission to join class. If the warm-up is missed, the student may stay and observe the rest of the class.

2. Please no cell phones in the dance studio while class is in session. Cell phones can be very distracting and annoying.

3. Please no food or drink in any of the dance studios. Please help keep the dance space clean and bug free! Bottled water is acceptable. Please pick up after yourself and throw away any trash you might bring into the dance space. **ABSOLUTELY NO GUM!**

4. Be respectful of others. This is a place of learning and once you step into the studio, you are all on the same level. Be positive with yourself and with others. This should be a safe place for you to grow as a dancer and to feel comfortable with yourself.