

UW-Madison Dance Department/ Fall 2012
741-469 Interdisciplinary Improvisation (3 cr.)
M W 8:50-10:30am Room 510 Lathrop Hall
Sally Gross, office Lathrop 404

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an experiential introduction to interdisciplinary improvisation. The class welcomes students from various disciplines and will include solo and group movement improvisation exercises, discussion, videos, readings, writing assignments and a culminating performance event at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art that will respond to the work of light artist Leo Villareal (<http://www.villareal.net>) on Dec. 7, 2012. Using interdisciplinary improvisation techniques, students creatively respond to and make use of the landscape, architecture, history, sound, and vibration of a site to create unique work; making use of interior and exterior spaces, students will generate choreography, sound, image, and physical theater. *Class size limit: 20-25

Prerequisites:

None. Interdisciplinary Improvisation is appropriate for dancers, actors, visual artists, athletes, musicians and anyone interested in developing more body awareness.

**The UW-Madison is committed to creating a dynamic, diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behavior or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability or any other difference is deemed unacceptable in this class, and will be addressed publicly by the professor.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Participate in both solo and group movement improvisations
- Collaborate across disciplines
- Develop a sense of clarity and intention when working alone and with others
- Develop the confidence in movement to take risks, to follow where you feel you need to go with a sense of experimentation.
- Develop skills in immediacy, sense of purpose, and decision-making
- Share your work with the Madison Community through a public performance at the end of the semester.
- Write effectively about your experiences.

Required Materials:

- Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation. Minton, S, C.
- Body Space Image : Notes Toward Improvisation and Performance. Tufnell, M. and Vaughan, D.
- Posthuman Performance: Dancing within Cognitive Systems. Barrios Solano, M.
- Taken by Surprise: A Dance Improvisation Reader by Ann Cooper Albright and David Gere
- Composing While Dancing: An Improviser's Companion by Melinda Buckwalter
- Sharing the Dance: Contact Improvisation and American Culture by Cynthia J. Novack

Requirements:

Regular Attendance and Active Participation

The improvisation process requires continual involvement, and missed classes cannot be made up. Therefore, attendance is extremely important. Please see “UW-Madison Dance Department Course Policies” for details about attendance:

<http://www.dance.wisc.edu/students/policies.asp>. For absences due to religious observance(s), please notify instructor within 2 weeks of the start of the semester.

You are expected to participate in all course activities and discussions. This includes participating in the planning and implementation of the final class performance.

Students should be in class on time and dress in comfortable clothing and work bare-footed. You may also want to bring along additional clothing to help you stay warm during discussions and viewings. Turn off cell phones and other electronics—use a notebook to write in during class.

Mandatory attendance at the opening of the Leo Villareal on Saturday, September 8 at 6:30pm at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.

Mandatory attendance at the Friday Forum presentation: “Sally Gross” on Friday, Oct. 5 at 3:30 at Lathrop, Margaret H’Doubler Performance Space.

Written Assignments

Journal

Please dedicate a notebook for this class as your journal. (To be discussed)

Final Paper

Your final paper will be a reflection on your development and learning in Interdisciplinary Improvisation. More specific guidelines will be given closer to the deadline.

Final Project

You will participate in a site-responsive event to be held at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art which will include both an improvised solo and a group movement piece near the end of the semester.

GRADING is based on:

- 1. ATTENDANCE**
- 2. EFFORT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION**
- 3. WRITTEN WORK**

93-100 = A (Excellent)

89-92 = AB (Intermediate Grade)

83-88 = B (Good)

79-82 = BC (Intermediate Grade)

70-78 = C (Fair)

60-69 = D (Poor)

00-59 = F (Fail)