Department of Performing Arts

Director

- Alan MacVey

Website: https://dpa.uiowa.edu/

The Division of Performing Arts includes the Department of Dance, the School of Music, the Department of Theatre Arts, and the Certificate in Arts Entrepreneurship. The division fosters interdisciplinary collaboration among these units, coordinates artistic and academic activities, and sponsors a full array of performances and symposia. Performances are supported by professional staff in the division’s Performing Arts Production Unit.

Each of the division’s individual academic units offers undergraduate and graduate courses and degree programs in creative, performance, scholarly, and theoretical areas. Together they present an extensive schedule of dance productions, faculty and student recitals, ensemble concerts, and mainstage and gallery theater productions. The division also collaborates with the arts outreach program, Arts Share.

For information about the division and its programs and events, visit the Division of Performing Arts website.

Courses

DPA:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, reading, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

DPA:1085 Introduction to Afro-Caribbean Dance Techniques 2 s.h.
Exploration of African traditional dance form evolution through movement; movement vocabulary of principle dances and their musical structures; dance and cultural histories; class sessions include warm up, progressions across the floor, and execution of traditional Caribbean dances (e.g., Yanvalou from Haiti, Orisha dance from Cuba, Brazil and Soca social dance from Trinidad). Same as DANC:1085.

DPA:1412 The Arts in Performance 3 s.h.

DPA:1800 World of the Beatles 3 s.h.
How the Beatles’ music was influenced by American pop music, the drug culture, and the avant-garde, nonwestern instruments and philosophy, anti-war sentiments, world politics, and so forth; Beatlemania’s impact on British and American cultures and its role in opening Eastern Europe to the West. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts. Same as MUS:1800.

DPA:2060 Dance and Society in Global Contexts 3 s.h.
Dance and other physical endeavors as embodied forms of knowledge and culture; U.S. dance practices; European and African dance cultures; aesthetic and political issues raised by concert dance (i.e., performance, choreography, spectatorship, criticism); ethnographic methods to examine the function of dance in cultural formation (i.e., spiritual, celebratory, social, political contexts); lecture, discussion, viewing, movement workshops, formal and informal writing, field research, and blog construction. GE: Engineering Be Creative; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts. Same as DANC:2060.

DPA:3075 Yoga Teacher Training 3 s.h.
Expansion of yoga and/or teaching knowledge; in-depth physical practice of yoga postures; basic yoga philosophy and texts; personal practice of meditation; yoga for various populations; anatomy of yoga postures; practice teaching within class structure. Corequisites: DANC:3070. Requirements: dance major and sophomore or higher standing. Recommendations: previous experience taking yoga classes. Same as DANC:3075.

DPA:3154 Introduction to Afro-Cuban Drumming 1 s.h.
Drumming, dance, songs from folkloric and ceremonial Afro-Cuban forms; emphasis on drumming; may include participation in Afro-Cuban drum and dance ensemble. Same as MUS:3154.

DPA:3210 Makeup Design for the Stage 3 s.h.
GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as THTR:3210.

DPA:3221 Technology for the Entertainment Industry 3 s.h.
Introduction to technology skills that are at the center of the entertainment industry; programming and operating digital lighting and sound consoles, intelligent lighting systems, projection hardware and software, outdoor event rigging, metal construction, and fabrication. Same as THTR:3221.

DPA:3510 Introduction to Arts Management 3 s.h.
Nonprofit performing arts management and administrative principles; practical applications, trends in the field; focus on arts organizations and their key administrative positions. Same as INTD:3510, THTR:3510.

DPA:3520 New Ventures in the Arts 3 s.h.

DPA:3850 Introduction to Laban Movement Studies 2 s.h.
Introduction to Bartenieff Fundamentals (BF) and Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) as methods of organizing and integrating movement to support artistic goals and expanding expressive range; BF teaches body awareness, breath support, developmental patterns, ergonomically-efficient alignment, balancing of muscular strength and stretch, and coordination; LMA teaches vocabulary of expressive movement and nonverbal communication, including effort (use of energy/dynamics for expression, stamina, stress relief) and shape (how posture and gesture communicate); quality of movement that supports individual goals in artistic expression, sound production, and wellness. Same as DANC:3850, MUS:3850.
DPA:3851 Introduction to the Alexander Technique 3 s.h.
The Alexander Technique and "self-use"—how movement choices affect results achieved; improvement of physical skills and presence; principles in support of performing arts (e.g., speaking, singing, playing an instrument, dancing, acting); application to skills in daily life, addressing underpinnings of movement; physical participation (e.g., lying down, rolling, sitting, standing, locomotion). Same as DANC:3851, MUS:3851.

DPA:4060 The Contemporary Dance Scene 3 s.h.
Historical, theoretical, and practical elements of contemporary dance; the term "postmodern" and its associations with dance, performing arts, contemporary culture; relationships between process and product, identity and subjectivity, artistic intent and authorship, meaning and intertextuality; possibility of art as a form of dissent; theory and practice placed in a dialectic; analysis and synthesis of previous research. Same as DANC:4060.

DPA:4510 Arts Leadership Seminar 3 s.h.
Performing arts management and administrative principles, practical applications, trends in arts leadership and advocacy. Prerequisites: THTR:3510 or ENTR:2000 or THTR:3520. Same as ENTR:4510, INTD:4510, THTR:4510.

DPA:5060 Theories of Dance and the Body 3 s.h.
Theoretical trends in studies of dance and physical bodies; performative and choreographic aspects of being. Same as DANC:5060.

DPA:5550 Collaborative Performance 3-4 s.h.
Collaborative process with advanced dance artists and creative, design, and technical practitioners from varied disciplines that culminates in a devised performance for the general public; emphasis on sharing and investigating ideas, artistic intent, personal vision, and practical application. Same as DANC:5550, THTR:5610.