



**Tentative Syllabus for Dance on Film
Theater Arts 38, Summer Session II 2012
Five Meetings in Five Weeks
Two Units**

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This five-week course introduces the rich territory at the intersection of dance and film, examining such topics as narrative storytelling in dance films (documentary and fiction), cinematic strategies for representing the kinesthetic, and dance film as a unique and distinct art form. We will screen five feature-length films on dance as case studies, as well as many illustrative clips from provocative and seminal works, looking to them to raise key issues in the field. **This introduction is oriented towards students with no particular background in either dance or film who have a curiosity about dance, film, and the issues that arise at the border of the two disciplines.**

In preparation for each meeting, students will typically watch a feature length film and a series of clips outside of class, read related articles, and prepare a short written response paper to films and readings from the week (three 500-700 word papers in all).

**SCHEDULE
(Five Class Meetings)**

WEEK I

Dance Narratives

Screened in class: *Carmen* (Saura)

After class:
Screen *Strictly Ballroom*
Read eCommons article xx.

WEEK 2

Life of a (Modern) Dancer, Part 1

Screened in class: *Paul Taylor: Dancemaker*

Life of a (Modern/Ballet) Dancer, Part 2

Screen *Carmen & Geoffrey* or *Ballets Russes*

Read eCommons article xx.

Post your eCommons short paper #1 by Friday.

WEEK 3

Life of a (Broadway) Dancer

Screened in class: *Every Little Step*

Life of a (Tap) Dancer

Screen *Been Rich All My Life*

Read eCommons article xx.

Post your eCommons short paper #2 by Friday.

WEEK 4

Activist Dancers: Part 1

Screened in class: *Dancing Dreams: Teenagers Perform "Kontakthof"*

Activist Dancers, Part 2

Screen *Mad Hot Ballroom*

Read eCommons article xx.

Post your eCommons short paper #3 by Friday.

WEEK 5

Documenting the Choreographic Process

Excerpts from the following screened in class:

Last Dance (Pilobolus)

Parsons Dance Company

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Beyond the Steps