



**Dance on Film**  
**Theater Arts 38, Summer Session 2014**  
**Five Wednesdays: July 30-August 27**  
**6-9 PM**  
**Porter C118**

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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 review feature-length films involving dance as case studies, as well as illustrative clips from provocative 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, you will typically watch one film outside of class and read related articles on eCommons. Your grade will be based on attendance/participation and two films/readings tests. While I would like you to come to all class meetings, I understand that illness, emergencies, etc. may preclude perfect attendance. If you are absent, I expect you to view the film we screened on your own. **If you miss more than one of our five classes, you won't earn credit for the course** since so much of the substance of the course occurs during class meetings (i.e. you must attend four of the five classes in full).

### Course Requirements

- 1) Attend class weekly in order to screen the films and participate in discussions. Come to class on time—we will start promptly at 6 PM each Wednesday.
- 2) Watch the additional film that is assigned outside of class and prepare the assigned readings in time to discuss them in class.
- 3) Demonstrate your knowledge of assigned readings and your ability to apply the key ideas to films we have screened on two short exams (*there will be no make-up exams if you are absent on one of the test days*).

Grades: To receive credit for the course, you must attend a minimum of four full classes of our five (12 of 15 class hours). If you meet the attendance requirement, your grade will be determined as follows:

30% Attendance/Participation

30% Test #1

40% Test #2

Workload: According to Academic Senate guidelines, summer session two-unit courses should require 8-12 hours/week of work, including time spent in the classroom.

Since class meetings take 3 hours each week and the required film viewings outside of class usually require another 1.5-2 hours, reading and writing should average 3-7 hours/week. You will note that the reading for the class is relatively light, though you will probably find certain articles to be challenging, necessitating study and rereadings.

Accommodation Requests: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at [831-459-2089](tel:831-459-2089) or [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for more information.

Plagiarism/Cheating/Respect: Any student found plagiarizing or cheating will receive a failing grade for the course. Students and teacher agree to conduct themselves with respect in the classroom. This includes not talking while anyone else is talking, refraining from using electronic devices during films, etc. Students may be asked to leave the classroom (and considered absent for the class) if they disrupt class proceedings.

## **TEXTS**

### **1) *Film/Videos***

We will watch more than half of the required film texts in class. You screen the remainder on your own, outside of class meeting times. While the “outside of class” videos are available in McHenry Media Center, know that only one copy of each is in their collection. It is highly recommended that you *subscribe to a DVD mail rental service and/or a suitable streaming service* for easy access to assigned films.

### **2) *Reading on eCommons***

All of the readings for the course are available in the Resources section of the THEA38 eCommons site ([ecommons.ucsc.edu](http://ecommons.ucsc.edu) or via [my.ucsc.edu](http://my.ucsc.edu)). Inside “Resources,” Readings are bundled under a heading by week—read all of the articles posted for each week. You can also find class assignments and other documents in the Resources section.

## SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1

Wednesday, July 30

#### **Life of a (Broadway) Dancer**

Screened in class: *Every Little Step* DVD9308

#### **Life of a (Tap) Dancer**

Screen on your own: *Been Rich All My Life* DVD6249 (Netflix and Amazon Prime streaming)

Read eCommons articles for Week 1

### WEEK 2

Wednesday, August 6

#### **Life of a (Modern) Dancer**

Screened in class: *Paul Taylor: Dancemaker* DVD8089, VT9645

#### **Dance in the Classroom**

Screen on your own: *Mad Hot Ballroom* DVD2979 (Amazon, iTunes streaming)

Read eCommons articles for Week 2

### WEEK 3

Wednesday, August 13

**Test #1: Assigned Readings and Films, Weeks 1-2 (no make up exam if absent)**

#### **Dance Narratives, Part 1**

Screened in class: *Carmen* (Saura) DVD5684, VT73, VID125

#### **Dance Narratives, Part 2**

Screen on your own: *Strictly Ballroom* DVD2572 (Netflix, Amazon, iTunes streaming)

Read eCommons articles for Week 3

### WEEK 4

Wednesday, August 20

#### **Community-Based Dance: Pina Bausch, Part 1**

Screened in class: *Dancing Dreams: Teenagers Perform "Kontakthof"* DVD9306

#### **Community-Based Dance: Pina Bausch, Part 2**

Screen on your own: *Pina* DVD9626 (Netflix, Amazon, iTunes streaming)

Read eCommons articles for Week 4

### WEEK 5

Wednesday, August 27

**Test #2: Assigned Readings and Films, Weeks 3-4 (no make up exam if absent)**

#### **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*