

Dance & Technology in Intermedial Works

XXXXX.2515

Spring 2014

INSTRUCTOR Benny Simon

TIME Mondays, 3:30-5:00

EMAIL benny.simon@gmail.com

LOCATION Studio C2

PLEASE EMAIL INSTRUCTOR WITH QUESTIONS OR TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of the combination of dance and technology with respect to the creation of intermedial works. Topics explored include the concept and theory of intermedial dance works, examples of technologies used in combination with dance to create specific intermedial works, and the hierarchy of dance within intermedial works.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the concept of intermediality using theoretical models
2. Identify common types of technology used in the creation and performance of dance
3. Discuss the impact of the commoditization of technology on the practice of creating intermedial works
4. Distinguish intermedial from multimedial works
5. Create an intermedial dance work using technology

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance at all classes and on-time arrival is required
2. Please complete assigned readings ahead of time as outlined in the Course Calendar
3. Constructive and courteous participation in class discussions is expected
4. Please turn off and put away phones for the duration of class; devices may be used to take notes during lectures and discussions

COURSE PROTOCOL

1. Written assignments must be typewritten in 12pt font and double-spaced. Please use a header and page numbers, and follow APA guidelines (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>).
2. All written assignments should be submitted online in Word format (no PDF) via Classes online system. Email submissions will not be accepted.

3. Attendance at all sessions is required, and any missed classes after one will reduce your final grade by one increment for each absence. Please notify the instructor ahead of time via email if you will be late or absent.
4. Assignments turned in late will be reduced by one grade increment for each day. Assignments turned in later than one week after the due date will not be accepted.
5. Students requiring special accommodations due to chronic health issues or learning disabilities should register with the University Center for Students with Disabilities.
6. Compliance with the University's standards of academic integrity are expected (<http://xxxuniversity.edu/academic-integrity>).
7. Grading is as follows:

GRADE LETTER	GRADE NUMBER	KEY
A	94-100	Exceptional
A-	90-93	Excellent
B+	87-89	Extremely Good
B	84-86	Very Good
B-	80-83	Good
C+	77-79	Satisfactory
C	74-76	Mostly Satisfactory
C-	70-73	Nearly Satisfactory
D+	67-69	Passing
D	65-66	Passing
D-	60-64	Passing
F	0-59	Failure

COURSE TEXTS & MATERIALS

- Auslander, P. "Live Performance in a Mediatized Culture." *Liveness: Performance in a Mediatized Culture* (Second edition). New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Bishop, C. (2012). Delegated performance: Outsourcing authenticity. *October*, 140, 91-112.
- Boenisch, P. (2006). Mediation unfinished: Choreographing intermediality in contemporary dance performance. In F. Chapple and C. Kattenbelt (Eds.), *Intermediality in theatre and performance* (pp. 103-116). Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Brown, C. (2011). Learning to dance with angelfish: Choreographic encounters between virtuality and reality. In S. Broadhurst & J. Machoon (Eds.), *Performance and technology: Practices of virtual embodiment and interactivity* (pp. 85-99). Basingstoke, Hampshire, GBR: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Brown, T. (2008). It's a Draw. *YouTube*. Retrieved January 21, 2014, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7DQVW6qRq8>
- Eleey, P., & Bither, P. (2008). *Trisha Brown: so that the audience does not know whether I have stopped dancing* (pp. 18-32). Minneapolis: Walker Art Center.
- Goldman, D. (2010). The Breathing Show: Improvisation in the work of Bill T. Jones. *I want to be ready: Improvised dance as a practice of freedom* (pp. 112-138). Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
- Jones, B. (1999). *Ghostcatching (1999) Chor. Bill T. Jones Digital Artwork*. Retrieved on June 10, 2013, from <http://youtu.be/x-7Mo3cg9jw>
- Kozel, S. (2008). Motion capture: Performing alterity. In *Closer: Performance, technologies, phenomenology* (pp 214-337). Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts. (2008). *ICH2 – 360o Intermedia Dance Performance – Behind the Scenes*. Retrieved April 10, 2014, from <https://vimeo.com/865792>
- Naugle, L. M. (2002). *A study of on-line collaborative choreography using lifeforms and internet communication*. (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest information and learning. (3031310)
- Parker-Starbuck, J. (2011). *Cyborg theatre: Corporeal/technological intersections in multimedia performance*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Salter, C. (2011). Timbral architectures, auralty's force. In S. Spier (Ed.), *William Forsythe and the practice of choreography: It starts from any point* (pp. 54-72). Florence, KY: Taylor and Francis.

Note: You do not need to purchase these texts; copies of relevant chapters will be provided.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments and Class Participation

Weekly assignments should be read in the order listed in the course calendar. Please be prepared to discuss or apply the material in class. Class participation consists of attendance, and engagement in classroom discussion and activities.

Participate in Class Discussion

Weeks 1-12 (50% of grade)

Each student is expected to actively participate in discussion of the assigned texts and videos.

Assignment #1: Assess an Intermedial Work

Due Week 6 (20% of grade)

Write a 8-10 page assessment of an intermedial work of your choosing (examples will be provided or you may find your own). Your assessment should describe the work, and then address the following:

- Use class readings to support your argument as to why the work is intermedial
- Identify the media types in the work and discuss how they have been combined—if relevant, reference examples viewed in class
- Describe the types of technology and how they are used in the work
- Discuss whether you think this is a “successful” merging of media types, and why

Note: This should be a cohesive paper; do not respond to each prompt above in bullet point form. Please include references to class texts or other scholarly sources.

Assignment #2: Create an Intermedial Work

Due Week 10, 11 or 12 (20% of grade)

Work in the groups assigned during the first week of class to create a short intermedial work that can be performed live for the class or shown on video.

- The work should be between 5-10 minutes
- Combine dance with at least one other media type that involves technology

- The other media type does not need to be technically complex or expensive
- The goal of the work is to demonstrate a successful merging of two media types in order to create a new, unique type

Each group will present their work during Week 10, 11, or 12, explaining the media types involved and the process by which the intermedial nature of the work was achieved. The class will then offer comments and questions about the work.

Assignment #3: Hierarchy of Dance in the Created Intermedial Work

Due Week 10, 11 or 12 (10% of grade)

Each member of your group will write a 5 page reflection that details the process your group used to manipulate the hierarchy between dance the other media types of the work. Discuss whether you feel this process of “intermedial play” was successful, what changes you might make if you continue to develop the work, and how this work compares to the one assessed in assignment #1.

COURSE CALENDAR (CALENDAR IS SUBJET TO CHANGE)

WEEK	TOPIC	DUE THIS WEEK
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Review of syllabus • Overview of topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No readings due</i> • Groups for Assignment #2 will be set
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: The concept of intermediality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auslander • Boenisch • Watch the <i>ICH² (Me to the Power of 2)</i> performance: https://vimeo.com/865792
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: The diversity of media types and types of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleey & Bither • Watch the Tricia Brown It's a Draw video: http://youtu.be/U7DQVW6qRq8
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: The real and the virtual (part 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown, C. • Goldman • Watch the Bill T. Jones <i>Ghostcatching</i> video: http://youtu.be/x-7Mo3cg9jw

Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: The real and the virtual (part 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kozel</i> • <i>Bishop</i> • <i>BIPED</i> by Cunningham (<i>video not available online; will be shown in class</i>)
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: Sound elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salter • Excerpt #1 from <i>Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host</i> by Ira Glass & Monica Bill Barnes & Co. (<i>video not available online; will be shown in class</i>) • Assignment #1 Due
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: Real-time collaborations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naugle • Brown, C.
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: Dance and the cyborg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parker-Starbuck • Excerpts from <i>House/Lights</i> by The Wooster Group (videos will be shown in class)
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion: Hierarchy of dance & intermedial play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class discussion of excerpt #2 from <i>Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host</i> by Ira Glass & Monica Bill Barnes & Co. (<i>video not available online; will be shown in class</i>)
Week 10	Presentations of Assignment #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three groups will present their intermedial work (live or via video) for discussion • Assignments #2 & #3 due for the groups presenting
Week 11	Presentations of Assignment #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three groups will present their intermedial work (live or via video) for discussion • Assignments #2 & #3 due for the groups presenting
Week 12	Presentations of Assignment #3 and final course reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three groups will present their intermedial work (live or via video) for discussion • Assignments #2 & #3 due for the groups presenting