

**Contemporary Modern Studio I**  
**THE 285 Spring 2019**  
**Kimmel Theatre, Armstrong Hall**  
**Alvon Reed, Dance Artist-in-Residence**  
**Class Times: MWF 9:00am-12:00pm;TTH 9:00am-11:00am**  
**Office: B50 Armstrong Hall**  
**Office Phone: ext.4285**  
**Email: areed@cornellcollege.edu**  
**Office Hours: MTWTh 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment**

**“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” -James Baldwin**

**Course Description:**

Contemporary modern is a beginning/ intermediate level movement based course in which students will refine principles of various modern dance techniques (Graham, Limon, Horton, classical ballet vernacular), artistic development and performance through complex movement combinations of diverse repertoires and ideologies. Although this course is primarily studio based, class discussions will be used to enrich the practice of movement creation through feedback and articulation of ideas about process and product. Additional work will include readings and video viewing.

**Recommended Websites**

Dance magazine, Pointe magazine, UbuWeb ([ubu.com/dance/](http://ubu.com/dance/)), Dance Heritage, Dance Spirit

**Required text and materials:**

No required text; materials will be provided by the instructor.

**Cornell College Educational Priorities and Outcomes:**

Contemporary Modern Studio supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with an emphasis on Knowledge, Inquiry and Communication.

**Course Objectives/Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the semester, students will learn and develop proficiency in:

- Executing beginning and intermediate movement concepts in contemporary dance and choreography development (Knowledge)
- Demonstrating an aptitude for choreographic retention (Knowledge)
- Identifying and maintaining personal and environmental space (Knowledge)
- Demonstrating and understanding basic music fundamentals (Knowledge)
- Moving with a deeper sense of artistic intention in technique and performance (Inquiry)

- Increasing body awareness, coordination, flexibility, strength and conditioning (Knowledge)
- Engaging in discussing dance in a clear and concise fashion (Communication)

### **Attendance:**

Because this course is only 3 1/2 weeks long, you are expected to be on time and attend all classes. In the event of extenuating circumstances, you will be allowed to miss (1) class without penalty. For each additional absence, your grade will be reduced one letter. For example, a final grade of A would be reduced to a B with two absences; C with three absences; D with four absences; and F with five or more absences. It will be your responsibility to obtain any missed information, as the instructor will not spend class time reviewing material you missed due to an absence. Extraordinary circumstances will be dealt with on a one-to-one basis as needed and at the instructor's discretion.

### **Tardiness and Observation:**

Lateness counts, too. **Remember, if you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late!** If you arrive to class at its start time, it will count as being tardy. Arriving late second time will count as an absence. If you become ill or have an injury, you may observe class. Nevertheless, two observations equal an absence. If you arrive to class more than 10 minutes late, you will forfeit your ability to participate in class and it will count as an absence.

Excused absences will ONLY be allowed for the following circumstances:

- Emergency or death within your immediate family
- A documented illness
- Representing the college at a planned event (Football games, musical concert, etc.) Students involved in any college sanctioned activity must inform the instructor on the first day of class. NO EXCEPTIONS!

### **Participation:**

Participation is essential for progress and success in this course. Class time will be used for technical development, learning choreography, course readings and in class discussions. Credit will be given for participation, effort, progress and successful completion of all course assignments and projects. Examples of participation include:

- Preparing your mind and body through self-warmup for all in-class activities prior to the start of class
- Maintaining a positive attitude
- Taking risks and trying new movement
- Working to your full potential
- Actively contributing to the success of the course

### **Studio Rules/Class Etiquette:**

Dance is an art form that is highly discipline oriented, requiring both physical and mental attention. It is of the utmost importance to respect your peers and instructor at all times. Here are some additional guidelines to aid you in helping the class run smoothly and having a positive and successful learning experience in this course:

- Use the restroom before class begins.
- No one should ever be sitting in the classroom; there is always something to review/work on.
- Practice/Observe new information at least FIVE times before asking a question.
- Cell phones will not be permitted in the classroom. Turn it off!
- No gum, food, or drink allowed (with the exception of water).
- Corrections are a common occurrence in dance. Often times, corrections will be directed toward one person. These corrections should also be seen as shared corrections. In other words, even if the correction is directed toward someone else, it may also apply to you. Watch, listen and apply all corrections accordingly.
- DO NOT walk on the marley flooring in your street shoes!

### **Use of Tactile Teaching:**

Dance inherently involves physical movement and requires a particular emphasis on alignment and bodily positioning. Consequently, it is often necessary to physically adjust students' bodies accordingly. If for any reason being physically adjusted is not a part of your learning process or makes you feel uncomfortable, please inform the instructor on the first day of class.

### **Dress:**

We will engage in daily physical activity geared at movement exploration, vocabulary expansion and deepening your knowledge and understanding of contemporary modern dance. Please make sure your clothing allows you to move freely. It is highly recommended that you wear athletic form fitting clothing that is above the ankle. Baggy clothing is not acceptable for dance class. Students who are improperly dressed will be asked to return to their dorm, change their clothes, and marked absent. Below are the dress requirements for this course:

**Women:** Women are required to wear comfortable, **BLACK** form fitting clothing (**Clothing with printing on it will need to be turned inside out**). Black socks will be permitted. Women will also be required to wear their hair in a ponytail for each class session.

**Men:** Men are required to wear **BLACK** tank top or fitted black t-shirt, black shorts or sweats with compression shorts (**Clothing with printing on it will need to be turned inside out**). Black socks will be permitted. Men with long hair are required to wear their hair in a ponytail for all class sessions.

**Injury:**

Dance is a highly active and physically demanding art form. Because of this, it is extremely common for students to sustain injuries. If you sustain an injury of any kind, it is highly recommended that you visit the school nurse (Nancy Reasland) or our athletic trainer (Loren Nydeggar) to have your injuries properly assessed. Students with minor injuries will be allowed sit out (1) class session without penalty. Students with severe injuries that persist more than two class sessions should withdraw completely from the course.

**Grading:**

This is a studio based, process oriented class. Your work will be graded on an on-going basis by assessing your individual skill, progress, investment and contribution to the overall course experience.

Skill and Development	300pts
Attendance/Participation/Effort	200pts
Final Compositional drafts (100 pts each)	300pts
Final assessment of choreography	100pts
Choreographic Journal	100pts
Final Composition	100pts
Total	1100pts

**The grading scale for this course is as follows:**

1100-1050=A	1049-1000=A-	999-949=B+
948-900=B	899-849=B-	848-798=C+
797-601=C	600-501=C-	
500-401=D+	500-401=D	
Below 400=F		

**Daily Grading Rubric:**  
**SKILL AND DEVELOPEMENT**

Placement/Alignment

Execution of in class choreography

Execution of diagonal exercises

Musicality

Choreographic Retention

Movement Quality

Artistic Expression

**IMPROVEMENT**

Application of corrections

Improvement of Alignment

Improvement of Technique

Strength Development, Control, and Flexibility

**ATTITUDE**

Dress Code

Punctuality

Etiquette

Prepared to dance

**Course Assignments (Knowledge and Communication):**

**Choreography Journal**

For this course you will be required to keep a choreography journal. Your journal will serve as a tool to document and reflect on your progress throughout the block and should be brought to every class. Students are required to write a minimum of one entry per day in their journals in addition to any in-class writing assignments. Use your journal to record classroom activities, notes, exercises as well as free writing assignments. You are also encouraged to include any successes, challenges, surprises, and opinions you may experience in your creative development. Use any imagery (drawings, pictures, or articles) relevant to in class choreography, brainstorming ideas,

etc. **The minimum word count on all journal entries is 500 words.** Your journal will be due on the last day of the block.

### **Video Viewing**

Throughout the block, you will be tasked with viewing a series of contemporary dance artists in an effort to increase your awareness and understanding of genre. For each viewed dance film, you are required to write a brief assessment of the piece. Your assessment can be handwritten and included in your journal. Here are the three categories for assessing a choreographic work in this course:

- Describe what you liked about the work and why
- Describe what you did not like about the work and why
- Discuss how viewing the work can aid you in the development of your own choreography

### **Compositional Development**

You will use movement to further investigate concepts and ideas covered in this course. Each week you will be tasked creating choreography and investigate different ways of beginning, continuing, revising and structuring your original ideas. **Your choreographic drafts will be due each Friday by 5:00pm via Moodle.** Videos can be uploaded to Moodle through its uploading option or private YouTube link.

### **Choreographic studies should demonstrate:**

- Application of learned skills and concepts
- Clear artistic intention
- Performance quality and personal investment to work
- Creative exploration and risk
- Evidence of effort, time, and work both inside and outside of class
- Demonstration of active participation when working with a group

### **Final Exam (Knowledge, Inquiry and Communication):**

#### **Final Composition: Expanding Your Range**

To culminate your work in this course, you will create an original composition in which you will deepen your investigation of fundamental concepts acquired throughout the block. This final composition must be a minimum of 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes in length. For this composition, you may choose to create a solo, duet or group work. Please be advised that those students who choose to participate in a duet, trio or quartet, will still be required to develop their own choreographic work. You will also be required to write a one-page statement about your final composition. Your composition will be graded on the following criteria:

- Application of learned skills and concepts
- Clear artistic intention
- A clear beginning, middle, and end
- Performance quality and personal investment to work

- Creative exploration and risk.
- Evidence of effort, time, and work both inside and outside of class.

**Late work policy:**

Late work of any kind will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Video Recording:**

For the purposes of assessment, your final exam will be recorded. This tool provides the instructor the time and opportunity to fully evaluate your development throughout the block. Please be advised that recorded materials will not be placed on any social media platform.

**15-Day Drop Policy:**

In order to be eligible for the 15 day drop, students must have been present at every class session, have completed all assignments and have proven significant efforts to be successful in daily readings/assignments, group/solo assignments, quizzes and tests. Eligibility for the Drop Policy must be discussed in advance with the professor and is left to the instructor's discretion.

**Academic Honesty Expectations:**

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Compass, our student handbook, under the heading "Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work."

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see [cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml](http://cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml) Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.

**Class Schedule:****\*\*\*Please be advised that the course syllabus is subject to change\*\*\***

<b>Week 1 Mar. 18-22</b>	<b>Class Topic/Class Time</b>	<b>Assignment/Due</b>
Day 1	Introductions and discussion of course syllabus <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Watch at home: YouTube "Glow" by Chunky Move, and "The Co(te)lette Film" by Ann Van den Broek on UbuWeb
Day 2	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00-11:00am</b>	Watch at home, "Gnosis" by Akram Khan on YouTube; and "If not, why not?" on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 3	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00-11:00am</b>	Watch at home: YouTube, "Deca Dance" by Ohad Naharin and "Cursive" by Lin Hwai-min on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 4	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00-11:00am</b>	Watch at home; "Entity" by Wayne MacGregor's and "Retrospective Exhibitionist and Difficult Bodies" by Miguel Gutierrez on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 5	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	In class viewing of "Pina"; Choreography Draft #1 due by 5:00pm; Review in class choreography
<b>Week II Mar. 25-29</b>		
Day 6	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Watch at home, "No knot" by Debra Colker on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 7	Contemporary Modern	In class viewing of Carmen



	Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-11:00am</b>	by Mats Ek; Review in class choreography; Watch at home, “Rotary Action” by Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane’s on UbuWeb ; Review in class choreography
Day 8	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Watch at home, “Painted” by Duncan McDowell’s and “Stool Game” by Jiri Kylian’s on Youtube; William Forsythe’s “One Flat Thing” on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 9	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Ballet Pedagogy; Music Appreciation</b> <b>9:00-11:00am</b>	In class viewing of “The Rain” by Pontus Lidberg; Watch at home “Huddle” by Simone Forti on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 10	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Choreography Draft #2 due by 5:00pm; Review in class choreography
<b>Week III Apr. 1-5</b>		
Day 11	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Watch at home, “On Vanishing” by Jonah Bokaer’s on YouTube; Review in class choreography
Day 12	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-11:00am</b>	Watch in class, “Mr. Gaga”; Watch at home “Death in Vince” by John Neumeier on Ubuweb; Review in class choreography
Day 13	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Watch at home, “Le Sacre du Printemps” by Maurice Bejart on UbuWeb; Review in class choreography
Day 14	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b>	Review in class choreography

	<b>9:00am-11:00am</b>	
Day 15	Contemporary Modern Movement Exploration: <b>Technique and Choreography</b> <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	Choreographic Draft #3 is due by 5:00pm
<b>Week IV Mar. 8-10</b>		
Day 16	Perform all in class choreography and make preparations for final composition. <b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>	
Day 17	Final Performance/Course Evaluations Exhibition (Time TBD)	
Day 18		