DANCE

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The Department of Dance is committed to engaging students in the study of dance as a personal art, a cultural art, and a fine art, as it prepares dance majors for a wide range of life and career options.

St. Olaf is a charter member and an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.

Overview of the Major

Movement-intensive and language-intensive classes present dance as a vital form of embodied awareness, personal expression, and physical communication. The St. Olaf College B.A. in dance guides students toward lives and careers with strong physical, creative, and analytical skills at their foundation. As a result, dance majors come away from St. Olaf College with the ability to perform with professional companies or as free-lance artists; to pursue graduate study in choreography, performance, teaching; or move into areas such as dance therapy, the healing arts, and somatic studies. They enter related fields such as arts management, psychology, environmental studies, media, and more.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major (http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/dance-major-ilos)

Students will demonstrate:

- a physical understanding of whole body connectivity, dynamic range, and spatial clarity while dancing and creating intentional relationships with others.
- an understanding of the multiple languages of dance and will demonstrate an ability to apply these languages to clearly communicate about dance and their experience of it.
- an ability to create dance artifacts and to evaluate these artifacts through a reflection and revision process.
- an ability to apply social, cultural, and historical parameters in relation to dance.

Performance and Creative Opportunities

Companydance™ offers students a range of dance creating, performing and producing opportunities and is open by audition to ALL students. The company’s primary aesthetic is grounded in the modern dance tradition, but is by no means restricted to it. Auditions for Companydance™ are held during the first week of the fall term.

Veselica International Dance Ensemble is open by audition to ALL students. The company exemplifies a global perspective that strives to spread awareness of dance forms from around the world. Veselica™ (pronounced veh-SELL-eet-sah) translates as “celebration.” Artistic Director Anne von Bibra founded the international dance ensemble in the late 1980s. Auditions for Veselica are held during the first week of the fall term and sometimes during the spring term.

Distinction

See Academic Honors (http://catalog.stolaf.edu/academic-regulations-procedures/academic-honors/#distinction)

Details about the distinction process can be found on the Dance Department web page.

Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Language-Intensive Courses (Theory)</strong></td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Dance</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 124</td>
<td>World Dance Traditions</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 150</td>
<td>Movement, the Camera, and the Creative Process</td>
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<td>DANCE 231</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Choreography and Improvisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 246</td>
<td>Dance in the United States</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>DANCE 270</td>
<td>Dance Anatomy and Kinesiology</td>
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<td><strong>Movement-Intensive Courses (Technique)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 121</td>
<td>Ballet I (0.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 130</td>
<td>Advanced Beginning Ballet (0.50)</td>
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<td>or DANCE 131</td>
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<td>DANCE 220</td>
<td>Ballet II (0.50)</td>
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<td>or DANCE 221</td>
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<td>DANCE 320</td>
<td>Ballet III (0.50)</td>
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<td>or DANCE 321</td>
<td>Ballet III (0.25)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>International and Social</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 106</td>
<td>Ballroom I (0.25)</td>
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<td>DANCE 108</td>
<td>American Dance: Native and Immigrant Traditions (0.25)</td>
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<td>DANCE 109</td>
<td>International Dance I: A Survey (0.25)</td>
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<td>DANCE 206</td>
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<td>DANCE 207</td>
<td>Art of Couple Dancing (0.25)</td>
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<td>DANCE 209</td>
<td>International Dance II: Selected Dance Cultures (0.25)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Modern</strong></td>
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<td>DANCE 111</td>
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<td>DANCE 210</td>
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<td>or DANCE 211</td>
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<td>DANCE 250</td>
<td>Modern Dance II: Technique Emphasis (.50)</td>
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<td>or DANCE 251</td>
<td>Modern Dance II: Technique Emphasis (.25)</td>
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<td>DANCE 310</td>
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<tr>
<td>or DANCE 311</td>
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<td><strong>Other Topics</strong></td>
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<td>DANCE 107</td>
<td>Topics in Rhythm in Dance (0.25)</td>
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Offered each semester.

Dance genres could include, hip hop, foxtrot, slow waltz, Viennese waltz, east coast swing, and cha cha. P/N only. Offered each semester.

DANCE 107: Topics in Rhythm in Dance (0.25)

Students explore dance genres that embody a strong rhythmic foundation. They experience rhythmic pattern as an organizing principle for the human body, an expressive capacity, and a social connector. Students investigate the cultural and social milieu from which dance genres emerge. Dance genres could include, hip hop, African, Asian, and Caribbean dance forms, tap dance, or jazz dance. Offered each semester.

DANCE 206: Ballroom II (0.25)

This course provides instruction in basic steps, rhythms and styling for tango, rumba, west coast swing, and quickstep. Students learn advanced patterns in slow waltz. Emphasis is on styling and quality of movement. P/N only. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered annually, usually in the spring semester.

Prerequisite: DANCE 106 or permission of instructor.

DANCE 207: Art of Couple Dancing (0.25)

This course focuses on social dance forms performed in pairs. Students will work on developing the skills necessary for success with such forms, including communicating non-verbally with a partner, particularly in lead/follow situations, giving weight and counter-balancing with a partner, rotating as a pair while progressing around the floor, etc. Repertoire for the class includes a range of social/vernacular dance forms such as Salsa, Viennese Waltz, Tango, Hambo, and Rörospols among others.

Prerequisites: DANCE 106, DANCE 108, DANCE 109 or permission of instructor.
DANCE 209: International Dance II: Selected Dance Cultures (0.25)
Students focus intensively on the dance forms and styles of selected cultures chosen by the instructor in consultation with the students. P/N only. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: DANCE 109, DANCE 124, or permission of instructor.

The following movement-intensive courses are offered at both 0.50 credit (DANCE 130, DANCE 210, DANCE 220, DANCE 250, DANCE 310, DANCE 320) and 0.25 credit (DANCE 131, DANCE 211, DANCE 221, DANCE 251, DANCE 311, DANCE 321). Movement-intensive courses taken for 0.50 credit entail additional outside work and may be taken only once. It is recommended that students take movement-intensive courses for 0.50 credit first. Movement-intensive courses taken for 0.25 credit may be repeated up to a total of eight times.

DANCE 130: Advanced Beginning Ballet (0.50)
This course offers an expansion of ballet technique, vocabulary, proper body alignment, and body awareness beyond the beginning level. Outside work includes practicing, reading, writing, and concert attendance. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered annually.
Prerequisite: DANCE 121 and/or permission of the instructor.

DANCE 131: Advanced Beginning Ballet (0.25)
This course offers an expansion of ballet technique, vocabulary, proper body alignment, and body awareness beyond the beginning level. Outside work includes practicing, reading, writing, and concert attendance. Ticket/transportation fee required. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Offered annually.
Prerequisite: DANCE 121 and/or permission of the instructor.

DANCE 210: Modern Dance II (0.50)
Students expand their understanding of modern dance by building on the components of Modern Dance I, adding attention to movement qualities, elements of space, dance vocabulary and of technique with an emphasis on phrasing and sequencing movement. Some sections may also include a focus on performing skills. Open to majors and other students with instructor’s permission. May require ticket/transportation fee. Offered each semester.
Prerequisites: DANCE 111 and permission of instructor.

DANCE 211: Modern Dance I (0.25)
Students expand their understanding of modern dance by building on the components of Modern Dance I, adding attention to movement qualities, elements of space, dance vocabulary and of technique with an emphasis on phrasing and sequencing movement. Some sections may also include a focus on performing skills. Open to majors and other students with instructor’s permission. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Offered each semester.
Prerequisite: DANCE 111 and permission of instructor.

DANCE 220: Ballet II (0.50)
This course offers an expansion of ballet vocabulary and technique with an emphasis on movement quality, clarity and efficiency. Outside work includes practicing, reading, writing, and concert attendance. Open to majors and other students with instructor’s permission. Offered each semester.
Prerequisite: DANCE 121 and DANCE 130/DANCE 131 and/or permission of the instructor.

DANCE 221: Ballet II (0.25)
This course offers an expansion of ballet vocabulary and technique with an emphasis on movement quality, clarity and efficiency. Outside work includes practicing, reading, writing and concert attendance. Open to majors and other students with instructor’s permission. Offered each semester. May be repeated with permission of instructor.
Prerequisite: DANCE 121 and DANCE 130/DANCE 131 and/or permission of the instructor.

DANCE 250: Modern Dance II: Technique Emphasis (.50)
Students further develop artistic, athletic technical skills in modern dance through concentrated work on movement sequencing and dance conditioning. Students learn, create, and perform movement patterns rich in attention toward actions and alignments of the spine, spatial pathways, dynamics of time and energy, expression of weight/ gravity, and intricate foot and legwork. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: two terms of DANCE 111 or permission of instructor.
Open to dance majors and other students with permission of instructor.

DANCE 251: Modern Dance II: Technique Emphasis (.25)
Students further develop artistic, athletic technical skills in modern dance through concentrated work on movement sequencing and dance conditioning. Students learn, create, and perform movement patterns rich in attention toward actions and alignments of the spine, spatial pathways, dynamics of time and energy, expression of weight/ gravity, and intricate foot and legwork. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: two terms of DANCE 111 or permission of instructor.
Open to dance majors and other students with permission of instructor.

DANCE 310: Modern III (0.50)
This course builds on the concepts and components of Modern Dance I and II. Offered each semester.
Prerequisite: DANCE 210/DANCE 211 or DANCE 250/DANCE 251 (at least twice) and/or permission of the instructor. Open to dance majors and other students with permission of instructor.

DANCE 311: Modern III (0.25)
This course builds on the concepts and components of Modern Dance I and II. Open to majors and other students with instructor’s permission. Offered each semester. May be repeated with permission of instructor.
Prerequisite: DANCE 210/DANCE 211 (at least twice) and/or permission of the instructor. Open to dance majors and other students with permission of instructor.

DANCE 320: Ballet III (0.50)
This course offers a further exploration of ballet vocabulary and technique for the advanced dancer with an emphasis on clarity, intention, and musicality. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: DANCE 221. Open to dance majors and other students with instructor’s permission.

DANCE 321: Ballet III (0.25)
This course offers a further exploration of ballet vocabulary and technique for the advanced dancer with an emphasis on clarity, intention, and musicality. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Offered periodically.
Prerequisite: DANCE 221. Open to dance majors and other students with instructor’s permission.
Language-Intensive Courses

Courses in which lecture, discussion, and writing are primary modes of learning.

DANCE 100: Introduction to Dance
This introduction to dance course allows students to broadly experience dance. Students explore dance from the following perspectives: historical, cultural and social, creative and expressive, performing, critical and aesthetic, and kinesthetic. The intention of the course is to broaden students’ perceptions about dance. Lectures, student presentations, experiential movement labs, and viewing of both live and recorded dance performances are all components of the course. No dance experience required. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered annually in the fall semester.

DANCE 124: World Dance Traditions
An introduction to world dance traditions, this course examines dance forms, functions, contexts, and differing aesthetics found in selected cultures of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the South Pacific, and Latin America. The course includes lectures, discussion, video-viewing, and required field-trips to dance events, in addition to studio experiences where students learn dances from the cultures studied. No previous dance experience required. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered alternate years.

DANCE 150: Movement, the Camera, and the Creative Process
Students learn, embody, and integrate elements of dance and film by engaging in the creative practice of making dance for the screen. Each student gains experience as a director, performer, videographer, editor, and critic in this collaborative learning community. Students discuss and analyze live movement studies, screendances by peers and professionals, and relevant texts. Other technologies, such as 3D character animation and reactive/interactive technology, may be introduced. The class culminates with an evening public showing. Offered annually in the spring semester. Counts toward media and film studies concentrations.

DANCE 231: Fundamentals of Choreography and Improvisation
A basic course in principles and methods for creating dances, this course focuses on the elements of dance composition and improvisation, the relationship of form and content, and the relationship of the dancer and the dance. It is appropriate for students interested in any or all forms of dance and for those interested in other forms of composition (music, visual art, etc.). Offered annually in the fall semester.

DANCE 246: Dance in the United States
Students trace and integrate the African-American and Euro-American dance traditions of the late 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries, paying attention to their similarities and differences. The focus is on the theatrical dance genres of ballet, modern, and jazz (includes social dance, tap, and some musical theatre dance). At the same time, the course attends to the economic, religious, political, and social forces that have affected the development of dance in the United States. No dance experience required. Ticket/transportation fee required. Offered annually in the spring semester. Counts toward race and ethnic studies and women's and gender studies concentrations.

DANCE 270: Dance Anatomy and Kinesiology
Students study musculoskeletal anatomy (structure) and kinesiology (science of human motion) from the perspective of dance training and performance. Students learn anatomical terminology, identify select bones (major features, articulations) and muscles (locations, actions), and analyze their influence during coordinated movement patterns. Students learn joint structure and mechanics, alignment and imbalances, movement behavior, conditioning needs, and injury prevention. Students learn to notice, measure, experience, sense, and reflect upon the impact of anatomical characteristics and anomalies. Offered annually.
Prerequisite: students taking this course should have previous experience in a movement intensive practice similar to dance, athletics, or exercise science. Offered annually in the fall semester.

DANCE 290: Topics in Dance
Students investigate a specific topic in dance through lecture, readings, class discussions, the viewing of live and recorded dance, and group projects. Potential topics could include dance and social justice, politics and the performing arts, dance and gender, dance aesthetics and ethics. Topics vary from term to term. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically.

DANCE 294: Internship
DANCE 298: Independent Study
DANCE 374: Advanced Choreography
In this advanced analysis of principles and methods for creating dances, students survey current trends in dance performance as well as choreograph new works. Offered annually in the spring semester.
Prerequisite: DANCE 231.

DANCE 394: Academic Internship
DANCE 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.
Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

DANCE 398: Independent Research
DANCE 399: Senior Dance Seminar
In this culminating dance major course, students develop and execute their final senior projects in their individual areas of specialty, including planning for and promoting the presentation of their projects. Students prepare for dance and other career options by developing professional correspondence documents, learning and practicing interviewing skills, creating video samples of their work, and leading discussions on dance-related topics relevant to the individual student. Open to dance majors only. Offered annually in the fall semester.

Faculty
Chair, 2017-2018
Heather J. Klopchin
Associate Professor of Dance
modern dance technique; ballet technique; dance history; Companydance

Janice Roberts
Professor of Dance
modern dance; choreography; Companydance
Anthony W. Roberts
Artist in Residence in Dance
modern dance; dance technology; Companypedance

Anne von Bibra
Assistant Professor of Dance
dance ethnology; ballroom; Veselica

Arneshia L. Williams
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance