DANC 410 Special Topics: Introduction to Somatics
3 credits

Spring 2015 TR 12:00 pm to 1:15pm
Instructor: Elizabeth Price
Phone: (703) 993-2137
Office Hours: M-F 12:00-2:00 or by appointment
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Course Description:
In-depth presentation and exploration of topical studies in dance or related study areas. Topic depends upon instructor. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.

DANC 410 is an introduction to movement theories with practical application to dance training and performance. This class will also focus on the ways somatic practices can deepen perceptual processes and influence movement aesthetics.

Nature of Course Delivery:
This course will be taught through experiential movement labs, lecture, and peer-to-peer discussion/feedback.

Student Outcomes:
• Develop a deeper understanding of movement theories that have impacted the development of modern dance aesthetics
• Acquire an integrated knowledge of biomechanics as applied to dance technique
• Understand, Develop and Integrate the basic principles of movement analysis for dancers
• Understand, Develop and Integrate a personal system of movement re-patterning

Required Texts: TBD

Suggested Resources:
Mable Ellsworth Todd: The Thinking Body
Eric Franklin: Dance Imagery for Technique and Performance
Andrea Olsen: Body Stories
Linda Hartley: Wisdom of the Body Moving, Introduction to Body-Mind Centering

Course Requirements:
• Class attendance
• Engaged Participation and application of somatic principles
• Journals – one entry per week to either detail one class or combination of 2 classes. Some entries may be guided by instructor’s questions. Journaling should include:
  o Subjective response (impressions that cannot be measured)
  o Objective response (specific documentation)
  o Professional judgment; include long and short term goals, problem list
  o Goal oriented approach for next class
• Research paper and presentation
• Final Reflective Paper: This should evolve from journal entries and include proprioceptive reflections and the adaptation of class information to technique class.

Grading Standards:
• A grade of A is given for superlative work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and further, that goes on to employ this material as a springboard for independent thought and work
• A grade of B is given for very good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates mastery of the course content
• A grade of C is given for work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in a satisfactory manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery
• A grade of D is given for work that is unsatisfactory
• A grade of F is given for work that fails to fulfill the requirements of the course as listed above
GMU Add/Drop Policy: The last day to drop this class with no tuition liability is 1/27/2015. The last day to drop this class without Dean's permission is 2/20/2015, by 5pm. The elective withdrawal period for this class is from 2/23/2015 to 3/27/2015. It is the student’s responsibility to check to verify that they are properly enrolled as no credit will be awarded to students who are not.

Honor Code, Copyright, & Computing Policies: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. You are expected to adhere to all University policies and guidelines during your participation in this course. All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others is a George Mason University Honor Code violation. Please review the University’s website for information on the following: Honor Code and Judicial Procedures; Copyright/Fair Use; and Responsible Use of Computing.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through the Disability Resource Center.

You are encourage to sign up for the Mason Alert System by visiting the website https://alert.gmu.edu. An emergency poster exists in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises and that further information about emergency procedures exists on http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert.