



Study-Unit Description

CODE	DCS1011
TITLE	Dance as Communication
LEVEL	01 - Year 1 in Modular Undergraduate Course
ECTS CREDITS	5
DEPARTMENT	Dance Studies
DESCRIPTION	<p>This theoretical study-unit investigates questions to do with the communication of dance in lectures and seminars; its codes and conventions; its aesthetic concerns, both generally and in terms of individual choreographers; written documentation of choreographers' intentions and methods, and the ways in which these are received and comprehended by audiences and critics.</p>

Study-unit Aims

- To gain insights into how communication shapes and informs our social life;
- To investigate the main models, theories and concepts used in communication;
- To clarify codes and conventions, meanings and signs in Dance;
- To contextualise the use of aesthetic understanding in Dance;
- To explore intention and reception in relation to dance makers and audiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge & Understanding:

By the end of the study-unit the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic insights into how communication shapes and informs our social life;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of selected models, theories and concepts used in communication;
- Clarify codes and conventions, meanings and signs in Dance;
- Contextualise the use of some aesthetic categories in Dance;
- Communicate ideas about intention and reception in relation to dance makers and audiences through the written word.

2. Skills:

By the end of the study-unit the student will be able to:

- Apply theories and ideas from another discipline (the fields of Communication Studies and Aesthetics) to dance and performance;

- Communicate ideas about intention and reception in relation to dance makers and audiences through a 2500 word essay.

Main Text/s and any supplementary readings

Indicative Bibliography:

- Abbs, Peter. 1989. A is for Aesthetic (The Falmer Press).
- Abbs, Peter. 1989. The Symbolic Order: a contemporary reader on the arts debate (The Falmer Press).
- Adshead, Janet. (1988) Dance Analysis: Theory and Practice (Princeton Book Co.).
- Banes, Sally. 1994. Writing Dancing in the Age of Postmodernism (Wesleyan University Press).
- Chandler, Daniel. 2002. Semiotics: the Basics (Routledge).
- Fiske, John. 2010 Introduction to Communication Studies, 3rd edn. (Routledge).
- Foster, Susan Leigh. 1986. Reading Dancing: Bodies and Subjects in Contemporary American Dance (Berkeley and LA: Univ of California).
- Hanna, Judith Lynne. 1987. To Dance is Human: A Theory of Nonverbal Communication (University of Chicago Press).
- Preston Dunlop, Valerie. 1998. Looking at Dances: a Choreological Perspective on Choreography (Kent: Verve).

STUDY-UNIT TYPE

Lecture, Independent Study, Seminar and Tutorial

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component/s	Assessment Due	Sept. Asst Session	Weighting
Written Tasks	SEM1	Yes	30%
Essay	SEM1	Yes	70%

LECTURER/S

Sara Accettura
Margherita Borg

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The University reserves the right to make changes in case errors are detected after publication.

The availability of optional units may be subject to timetabling constraints.

Units not attracting a sufficient number of registrations may be withdrawn without notice.

It should be noted that all the information in the description above applies to study-units available during the academic year 2022/3. It may be subject to change in subsequent years.

<https://www.um.edu.mt/course/studyunit>