

BMC Fall 2026

Course: Dance Composition (B144)
Location: Pem Studio
Days/Times: Monday/Wednesday, 2:40 pm-4:00 pm
Aug 31-Dec 9, 2026
Instructor: Mawu Ama Ma'at Gora (they/them)
Office: Pem Studio
E-Mail: amaatgora@brynmawr.edu
Office Hours: By appointment, Zoom or in-person

Course Overview

Important Dates →

Labor Day: Sept 7

Journal (1) Due: Sept 30 (due at midnight)

Live Performance Study: October TBD

Fall Break: Oct 12 - 17

Thanksgiving: Nov 25 - 29

Final Performance: Dec 9

Journal (2) Due: Dec 11 (due at midnight)

Course Description

This course explores movement composition through embodied research methodologies and somatic notation systems. Participants develop an understanding and a practice of the somatic body's compositional potential as they choreograph movement phrases. This course cultivates practical, expressive, and critical interpretive skills. Students learn to generate movement phrases, critique dance, and gain experiential learning about the elements used to craft dance.

Assessment

This course is designed to deepen students' practice of dance composition methods and concepts. Emphasis is placed on the dedication of one's approach, investment in the investigation of movement methodologies, and the evidence of progress. Details below:

Assignments- (50%) all students, both PE and ARTD, will be asked to **generate seven dance compositions, contribute to a group project, and write two journal reflections** over the entirety of this course.

Participation - (50%) the range of effort and presence put forth to **learning as an ongoing practice, and the willingness to volunteer and receive thoughts, reflections, and critique of their embodied experience during class time**. This course requires the physical, emotional, and psychological presence of the participant. Participation is the degree of one's attention and availability to content in the course.

Attendance Philosophy:

SEE STUDENT COURSE GUIDE FOR DANCE PROGRAM ATTENDANCE POLICIES (which apply to ALL students in the course)

By attending this class, participants agree to cultivate a supportive class community by consistently showing up and contributing an energy into the room that is supportive and conducive to everyone's learning and growth. Sitting out excessively, for example, will not only impact your attendance grade but impacts the conditions of the learning space for all. **Excessive absences also significantly impact your grade, but most of all profoundly impact the energy of our community.**

Communication is key regarding absences. This means: students should email the instructor *prior* to an anticipated absence, as well as email correspondence between the instructor and student about subsequent or excessive absences. It is not the instructor's responsibility to track you down about your absences.

Illness: If you feel very ill, do not come to class and be in communication with the instructor. Consider symptoms such as fever or vomiting as instances in which you should not attend class. However, a stuffy nose is not an instance in which you need to miss class. Mask wearing is up to student discretion. Sometimes we work closely with one another, so please use your best judgment. I generally do not encourage class observation for illness.

Injury and Class Observation Policy:

If injury prevents full participation, student attends class by mindfully modifying movement.

Injured students must be in the studio and fully engaged throughout the class, unless otherwise discussed. Schedule time to speak with instructor prior to class for ways to modify class material.

Late Policies

Life happens, but let's start on time. If a student **arrives on or after fifteen minutes late** to class, student may be asked to observe, and this may impact attendance. If the instructor is running behind, check email for communication and begin warming up on your own.

Attire for Studio Work: Please wear what you are comfortable moving in. There is no dress code for this course, but clothes that are moderately fitted are recommended. Come prepared with warm clothing to layer for colder days. You can wear socks for safety reasons, but otherwise I ask for a no-sock classroom.

Assignments

For students taking this course as an ARTD credit, you are expected to complete ALL assignments; for those taking the course for PE credit, you are HIGHLY encouraged to complete all assignments to keep with the integrity of the course. For more details, refer to Moodle.

Wednesday, Sep 3: Journal One

Oct TBD: Live Performance at Bryn Mawr, which you are required to attend. Details to come.

Wednesday, Nov 11 & 12: Group Presentation (1) and (2)

Friday, Dec 11: Journal Two

→ *For details on each assignment's parameters, please review Moodle.* ←