Dance Education II: Creating Integrated Dance Experiences

This experiential based class will focus on the many ways to integrate movement and dance into people’s lives. We will explore holistic models of dance education including Anne Green Gilbert’s brain based dance pedagogy, Luna Dance Institute’s K-12 and community based dance education programs, and Katherine Dunham’s inclusive educational philosophies and curriculum. How is dance integrated within the academic classroom PK-college level? What ways can our teaching methods and content choice integrate the social, emotional, cognitive, physical and artistic needs of our students?

Over the course of the semester we will be partnering with Wildwood Elementary School in Amherst, MA, working with their grade level teachers to design and teach dance integrated learning experiences for students that complement their current units of study and align with the National Core Arts Standards. In addition, our class will teach a Family Dance Workshop for Berkshire Museum’s Ten Days of Play program in Pittsfield, MA. Collectively we will examine ways that dance can be integrated within the missions and curriculum of schools and community based organizations, and create our own examples of integrated dance lessons and programs.

In future years, this class will have a prerequisite of DANCE 261- Introduction to Dance Education.