CONTEMPORARY DANCE TECHNIQUES offerings at Smith College Spring 2018

DAN 216 01: Contemporary Dance IV (for intermediate dancers) Monday and Wednesday 10:30 - Noon with Guest Artist Leslie Frye Maietta
This course is intended to cultivate a practice of mining an available body within the landscape of Contemporary technique and researching the possibilities of self-transformation through shifts in perception of dance. Through both directed improvisational and structured exercises, students will learn to tune their body/mind by deepening texture, tone, availability, dynamic intent, rhythmic complexity, specificity and expansive physicality. Additionally, we work to increase our range as technicians with awareness of alignment, music, and momentum through full bodied yet nuanced exploration. This is all done by embracing and finding pleasure in rigor and risk and celebrating our moving bodies in space. Leslie has wonderfully diverse range of influences that she brings to her courses. Her experience/research in Contemporary Dance, Jazz dance, Hip Hop and Gaga are all present within her work.

DAN 216 02: Contemporary Dance IV: Improvisation Techniques (for intermediate and advanced dancers)
Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30
With Associate Professor Chris Aiken
This course offers an array of improvisational approaches to develop the intermediate level dancer’s skill and artistry through guided solo, duet, trio and ensemble improvisation. Our approach will be to both tune the tonic landscape—the pre-movement tensional matrix that shifts in relationship to our anticipatory states—and to guide ourselves through physical scores that challenge us to move within spatial, temporal and aesthetic limits and foci. A key component of this class involves the dancer’s conscious development of their musicality—allowing for a range of responses from rhythmic and melodic counterpoint to being able to co-exist with the musical landscape. Ultimately the goal of this course is both to develop within the dancer a poetic sensibility and the physical skill to realize this through movement.

DAN 318: Contemporary Dance VI (Advanced Level Placement required) Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 - 2:30
With Guest Artist Bronwen MacArthur
With a focus on musicality, physicality, and use of space, Bronwen's class seeks to maximize each individual's movement possibilities. Dynamic movement sequences utilize elements of momentum, gravity, speed, weight, rhythm, and connection through the body to develop the dancer's own power and range of movement language. Set and improvised exercises are employed to reach these goals. The class moves in and out of the floor, dances at standing level, and flies in big jumps. Bronwen’s class is informed by her early training in classical ballet and modern forms and her later training and performance experience in postmodern contemporary forms.

DAN 300: Contemporary Trends in Dance Technique and Performance (one credit)
Fridays, 1:00-2:30pm, Scott Dance Studio
This studio dance course offers a series of contemporary dance technique master classes with Smith MFA teaching fellows and other dance artists. It is designed to augment students’ on-going dance training. Through this course students engage in a wide-range of approaches and material in the contemporary dance realm. Each week will be a “deep-dive” into a different aesthetic and artistic philosophy. It aims to introduce students to a variety of perspectives on dance and its place in our culture. Students registered for this this course are expected to be concurrently registered for a two-credit dance technique course (intermediate level or above.)