New Courses in DANCE
Spring 2015

DAN 377: Critical Studies in Latin American Dance (4 credits)
Lester Tomé, instructor
Monday, 7:00–9:30 pm
This seminar integrates history, anthropology and cultural studies in an examination of the development and current practices of capoeira, tango, salsa, merengue, rumba, folklórico and other dance forms from Latin American and Latino US.
Readings, documentaries and class discussions explore dance performances as markers of political, racial, gender and social class identities. The course also considers how nationalism, transnationalism and globalization shape the practice of these dance forms. While the course is primarily theoretical, some of the meetings take the form of dance lessons.

DAN 207: Intermediate Repertory (2 credits)
Barbie Diedward, instructor
Monday/Wednesday, 1:00–2:30 pm
For students interested in dance and literature, this course is a deep consideration of Virginia Woolf’s fiction writing from a choreographic perspective. Using Woolf’s 1927 novel “To the Lighthouse” as both a dramaturgical resource and a proposition for creating movement, this course will empower students (dancers and “non-dancers” alike) to embody their questions and tune into choreographic thinking. Woolf’s structure, formal syntax and masterful use of choreographic elements such as duration, repetition, gesture, scale and relationship will frame and animate movement experiments and collaborative composition. A daily writing practice inspired by Woolf’s creative habits will accompany the studio work. At the heart of this course is a desire to open a conversation about how we hold knowledge and about what moves us. How else might we experience the force and vision of Woolf’s work? How else might we consider choreography? How can dance, as Woolf so admired, get at the heart of things without looking to language for substantiation? The course will culminate in an informal performance of the work that is devised in class.

DAN 300:
Contemporary Trends in Technique/Performance (1 credit)
Dance Teaching Fellows, instructors
Fridays, 1:00–2:30 pm
Join the MFA Teaching Fellows as they instruct undergraduate and graduate level students in the techniques, movement systems, and creative structures they most admire in the field of dance. This course, which will vary in topic and movement style from week to week, will be taught at the intermediate level. Every week will be a different instructor, every week a different journey in dance! DAN 300 works best when students are concurrently registered in at least one additional technique course. Please contact Rodger Blum with questions, rblum@smith.edu

Early Morning Floor Barre, Monday and Wednesday, 8:30–9:00 am, Scott Studio
Open to all Smith and FCDD dancers • Drop in • No registration required

J-Term Book Course: On Dexterity And Its Development (1 credit)
Chris Aiken, instructor
January 19-22, 1:00-2:30 pm, Scott Dance Studio
Nicholai Bernstein’s On Dexterity and Its Development is considered one of the most important books about movement and the brain ever written. Written for a general audience, this book has wide applicability to those who are interested in the study of human action and learning. Bernstein was an expert physiologist, neurologist, kinesiologist, mathematician, physicist, musician and philosopher.