W. S. 301-3
WOMEN AND DANCE

This course applies feminist theory to Western theatrical dance performance, with a specific focus on the female body. Issues of presentation, representation, gender, and the power of the image will be examined in relation to selected dance works which sample the various styles of the contemporary repertoire—classical and neo-classical ballet, modern and contemporary ballet, modern and post-modern dance. These selected works will be examined in relation to specific concerns of feminist theory.

Recent writing in both dance and feminist theory will form the basis of lectures, and will be supplemented by required readings available on reserve in the library or presented as course handouts. Filmed and video performance will be supplemented by slide images and students will be encouraged to attend some live performances. Optional extra screenings will be arranged of film/video material shown in class.

Tutorials will follow from the material presented in lectures and will involve active discussion and writing about the female dancing body. These activities will contribute to the development of possible feminist reading practice(s) for dance performance.

REQUIRED READING


RECOMMENDED READING


Note - Those who have no background in dance history should consult: Au, Susan, Ballet & Modern Dance, Thames and Hudson (1988).

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ASSIGNMENTS

30%  3 performance writing assignments (2-3 pages each)
10%  tutorial participation
35%  research paper (20-25 pages)
25%  final examination (take home)

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours

This course may be used for Communications upper division credit. It is under consideration for designation as upper division credit for P.P.A. majors - contact the Centre for Arts for confirmation.