

SNDO



Academy of Theatre and Dance
Amsterdam University of the Arts

BA in Choreography

Course description

Course: Philosophy: Action, Relation, Change

Teacher(s): Dr. Mijke van der Drift

Year group: 3

Study year: 2018-2019

Period: autumn

Weeks (block:) 1

Time: 9.0—12.00

Hours: 6 x per week

Total amount of contact hours: 6

Total amount of self-study hours (reading, writing, homework tasks, etc.): 42 (6 hours/week + 6 hours assignment)

Starting date: 11 september

Date of completion: 19 October

Study points: Student acquires credits/study points based on minimum of 90% participation in the course (in case of excused absence the minimum required is 70% presence). The full course study points are awarded if student participated in the above mentioned amount *and* in relationship to the quality of participation and development expected for the course.

Content (concept and week to week outline):

In this course we will aim to understand the relation between action and social change from a philosophical perspective. We will read and discuss texts from within the philosophical canon and also its critics. The course will consist of two classes per week. Each week we will discuss one author's views by close reading and discussing one or more key texts.

For performance as well as for socially conscious activity there is a strong connection between the questions of how to do things differently, how to make a world, and how do people, animals, and things form a world. There are many approaches to these question, but in this course we will focus on three: *action*: what is done, *relation*: how do connections exist, and *change*: what does it mean if something is different from before.

While certain parts of the history of philosophy have been greatly concerned with 'reality', 'truth' and 'essence' in this course we will focus on ethics: how do we do and how do we relate? This leads to questions concerning stability and instability of relations, changing of *forms of life* and questions of understanding our place in the world from the perspective of action. This course could be understood as questioning choreography as social activity, but equally this course might be understood as question what the role of politics is. A discussion we might focus on in the course is the question of becoming: not as person, but as social activity. Summarising we will find different answers to the question *how can we do something else?*

Note for teachers: your course description needs to be sent to SNDO admin esther.arribas@ahk.nl two weeks after the course is confirmed and no later than three (3) weeks prior to the course commencement. This form (must be) available to students in the weeks prior to the start of the course.

Week 1 Action

Hannah Arendt, *Human condition*, 1958, Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, Tuesday: pp. 7- 21 Friday: pp.175 - 212

Week 2 Change as Action

Gloria Anzaldúa.

Tuesday: *Borderlands*, 1987, San Francisco: Aunt Lute. pp.63-73 & 99- 113 Friday: *Light in the Dark: Luz en lo Oscuro*, 2015, Durham: Duke University Press, pp.117-159

Week 3 Change as Relation

Henry Bergson, *Creative Evolution*, 1910, New York: Henry Holt

Tuesday: pp.1-23, 272-316

Friday: Gilles Deleuze, *Bergsonism*, 1991, New York: Zone Books. Chapter 4 *One or Many Durations?* pp.73-89

Week 4 Relation as Change

Edouard Glissant, *Poetics of Relation*. 2010, Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Tuesday: pp.89-127

Friday: pp.133 - 179

Week 5 Relation as Action

Donna Haraway

Tuesday: *Cyborg Manifesto*, in: *Siminans, Cyborgs, and Women*, 1991, London: Free Association Books, pp.149-182

Friday: *Staying with the Trouble*, 2016, Durham: Duke University Press, pp.58-76 & 117-126

Week 6 Actions to Change Relations: Difference and Separability

María Lugones, *Pilgrimages*, 2003, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield

Tuesday: *Purity, Impurity, and Separation* pp.121- 149

Denise Ferreira da Silva. 2016. *On Difference without Separability*. Sao Paolo: Sao Paolo Art Biennale. Pp.57-65

Objectives and assessment criteria: (the student is able to..):

After the course the student is able to discuss and engage critically with texts concerning philosophical and theoretical topics and bring those texts in relation with each other. The students will be able to engage with form, action, and movement as conceptual matters in addition to action as (dance) practice.

Literature, websites, background: (as reference or actual course material):

Reader with course material

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Teaching format:

- ☐ technique class
- ☐ task directed education
- ☐ learning through performance project
- x seminar / group work
- ☐ stage / work placement
- ☐ individual advising
- x instruction, self-study, feedback
- ☐ peer to peer feedback
- ☐ various
- ☐ other: please describe

Form of students output:

- ☐ process
- ☐ product
- ☐ presentation
- ☐ report
- x essay
- ☐ (theory) exam
- ☐ other: please describe

Assessment by whom:

- X teacher
- ☐ group
- ☐ someone else: please describe

Assessment:

(dialogue / progress oriented / sanction, repeat or re-doing)

Which competences the course contributes to (please refer to the end goals/competences in the SNDO study guide):

Writing, critical assessment, group discussion, and individual study of complicated texts.

Conditions:

Remarks: