

Spring 2014

Stony Brook University  
Department of Asian and Asian American Studies  
College of Arts Culture and Humanities

## **AAS 209 Indian Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam**

This course satisfies the DEC category D  
This course satisfies the SBC category ARTS.  
Course Instructor: Malini Srinivasan  
Section: 01  
Office Hours: 5:30-6:30 HUM 1036  
Instructor contact information: malini.srinivasan@stonybrook.edu

### **AAS 209 - D: Indian Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam**

Introduction to the basics of Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dance) technique. Includes primary postures and basic steps, or adavus. Class also covers the theory of Bharatanatyam including hand gestures, head, neck and eye movements, as delineated in Nandikeswara's Abhinaya Darpana. Students will gain a well-rounded knowledge of the dance by studying Bharatanatyam's form, content, basic history, music, and repertoire. By the end of the class, students will learn and present a dance piece, which they will perform in a public performance.

3 credits

#### Course Pre/co-requisites:

Advisory Prerequisite: Any dance class

#### **Learning Outcomes for AAS 215**

- By the end of the course, students will be able to perform the movements and gestures of Bharatanatyam, the Indian classical dance.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to identify the basic elements of the dance Bharatanatyam and understand its historical context.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to watch, understand and interpret classical performing art forms and distinguish them from popular and folk art forms of South Asia.
- By the end of this course, students will be able to work cooperatively in a small group environment.
- By the end of this course, students will be able to create dance and story-telling sequences based on the Bharatanatyam dance form.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

##### Attendance and Make Up Policy

Students are expected to attend classes and are evaluated on their participation in class. Students are expected to attend office hours if they missed class. Students are also expected to attend relevant performances and group meetings outside of class. **Please note the exam dates and deadlines:** In fairness to all students, any late submission will be automatically marked down by one grade level for each 2 days of delay (i.e., a paper that would normally get an A will get an A- if submitted 2 days late, 1 plus if handed in 4 days late, etc. **No Exam make-ups are allowed.** Late quizzes must be handed in no later than the class after it was taken, otherwise it will not be graded.

Description and schedule of Required Readings and/or Assignments.

- Chandrasekhar, C.V. Interview in *Samudhra*, March 2006, Vol IV Issue 5, Chennai.
- Coomaraswamy, Ananda, The Dance of Siva, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 1997, pp. 83-95
- Desikachar, The Heart of Yoga, p. 5-14, 166, 175-176, 187
- Devi, Rukmini, 'The Spiritual Background of Dance' in Bharatanatyam: A Reader, ed. Davesh Soneji, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2010.
- Dimmitt, Cornelia, and van Buitenen, J.A.B., Classical Hindu Mythology, Temple University Press, Philadelphia
- Gaston, Anne-Marie, Bharata Natyam: From Temple to Theatre, Manohar, New Delhi, 1998.
- Iyengar, Malathi, Dance and Devotion: A Handbook, Rangoli Foundation for Art and Culture, Sherman Oaks, 2004.
- Kishwar, Madhu, "Traditional Female Moral Exemplars in India" in *Education about Asia*, Volume 6, Number 3, Winter 2001
- Miller, Barbara Stoller (ed. trans.), The Gitagovinda of Jayadeva: Love Song of the Dark Lord, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi 1984.
- Ramanujan, A.K. (trans.) Hymns for the Drowning: Poems for Vishnu by Nammalvar, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1981.
- Ravikiran, Chitraveena N., Appreciating Carnatic Music, Ganesh & Co., Chennai, p. 7- 40, 47-53.
- Samson, Leela, 'The Larger Picture,' The Music Academy, Madras.
- Sarabhai, Mrinalini, 'Creations' in Bharatanatyam: A Reader, ed. Davesh Soneji, Oxford University Press, oxford, 2010.
- Sarukkai, Malavika, "Soundarya and Rasa," The Music Academy, Madras, p. 9-11
- Schwartz, Susan L., Rasa: Performing the Divine in India, Columbia University Press, NY, 2004.
- Vatsyayan, Kapila, Indian Classical Dance, Publications Division, Ministry of India, New Delhi, 1997.

Requirements for written assignments: all essays should follow MLA format

Graded Assignments

Practical midterm, written midterm, practical final (performance), presentation, quizzes, 3-4 performance reviews/written assignments

Midterm Exam includes multiple choice, short essay and long essay questions.

GRADING:

<b>Requirements:</b>	<b>Percent of grade</b>
Participation	25%
Midterm Exam (practical)	15%
Midterm Exam (written)	15%
Final Exam (practical)	20%
Performance reviews and assignments	15%
Quizzes	10%

## MEETING SCHEDULE

- Mon Jan 27 Studio – Basic positions, Thatt Adavu, Naat Adavu.
- Wed. Jan. 29 Studio - Thatt Adavu, Naat Adavu, Single Hand Gestures
- Mon. Feb. 3 Studio - Thatt Adavu, Naat Adavu, walking, Single Hand Gestures  
Readings (to be discussed in class):  
Leela Samson  
Iyengar, Malathi, Dance and Devotion: A Handbook, Rangoli Foundation for Art and Culture, Sherman Oaks 2004.
- Wed. Feb. 5 Studio - Thatt Adavu, Naat Adavu, Single Hand Gestures  
Schwartz, Susan L., Rasa: Performing the Divine in India, Columbia University Press, NY, 2004, p. 7-10, 20-47.
- Mon. Feb. 10 Studio – Thatt Adavu, Naat Adavu, Single Hand Gestures  
The Heart of Yoga by Desikachar, p. 5-14, 166, 175-176, 187  
C.V. Chandrasekhar, Interview in *Samudhra*, March 2006, Vol IV Issue 5, Chennai.
- Wed. Feb. 12 Studio - Paraval Adavu  
Lecture – Gesture, Rhythm & Music  
Reading (to be discussed in class):  
Ravikiran, Chitraveena N., Appreciating Carnatic Music, Ganesh & Co., Chennai, p. 7- 40, 47-53.
- Mon. Feb. 17 Studio - Paraval Adavu, Head Movements  
Reading: Malavika Sarukkai, “Soundarya and Rasa” p. 9-11  
Madhu Kishwar, “Traditional Female Moral Exemplars in India”, p. 23-31
- Wed. Feb. 19 Studio - Sarikkal Adavu, Head Movements  
Lecture – Mythology - Siva  
Readings (to be discussed in class):  
Dimmitt, Cornelia, and van Buitenen, J.A.B., Classical Hindu Mythology, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, pp. 147-154, 161-164, 179-185, 215-212, 215-216.  
Coomaraswamy, Ananda, The Dance of Siva, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 1997, pp. 83-95
- Mon. Feb. 24 Studio - Sarikkal adavu.  
QUIZ – Single Hand gestures
- Wed. Feb. 26 Studio –Theermanam Adavu, Jump  
Lecture - Mythology- Krishna  
Reading (to be discussed in class):  
Dimmitt, Cornelia, Classical Hindu Mythology, pp. 100-137.
- Mon. Mar. 3 Studio – Jump and Practical Midterm Review  
Lecture - Mythology- Goddess  
Reading (to be discussed in class):  
Dimmitt, Cornelia, Classical Hindu Mythology, pp. 219 – 242.
- Wed. Mar. 5 Practical Midterm
- Mon. Mar. 10 Studio – Performance item, Head movements, Naat adavu choreo  
Lecture: Margham – Pushpanjali, Alarippu  
Reading (to be discussed in class):  
Vatsyayan, Indian Classical Dance , 'Repertoire,' p. 29-34

- Wed. Mar. 12    Wed. Mar. 26    Naat Adavu, Poem Choreography  
 Lecture - Margham: Jathiswaram, Sabdam  
 Reading (to be discussed in class):  
 Vatsyayan, Indian Classical Dance , 'Repertoire,' p. 29-34
- Mar. 17-23        SPRING BREAK
- Mon. Mar. 24    Studio – Performance item, Head Movements; Poem Choreography  
 Lecture - Margham: Varnam, Padam  
 Reading (to be discussed in class):  
 Balasaraswati, T. 'On Bharatanatyam,' in *Sangeet Natak*, April- September 1984, pp. 8-13.
- Mon. Mar. 31    Margham Video, Performance Item
- Wed. Apr. 2     Studio – Performance item, Head Movements; Poem
- Mon. Apr. 7     Studio – Performance item  
 Lecture – Repertoire: Thillana  
 Reading - Mrinalini Sarabhai, Rukmini Devi
- Wed. Apr. 9     Studio – Performance item, Poems  
 Reading (to be discussed in class):  
 Gaston, Anne-Marie, Bharata Natyam: From Temple to Theatre, Manohar, New Delhi, 1998. pp. 26-60.  
 Head Movement Quiz
- Mon. Apr. 14    Studio – Performance item, Poems  
 Reading (to be discussed in class):  
 Schwartz, Susan L., Rasa: Performing the Divine in India, Columbia University Press, NY, 2004, p. 87-98.
- Wed. Apr. 16    Studio – Performance item  
 Midterm Review
- Mon. Apr. 21    Written Midterm
- Wed. Apr. 23    Studio - Performance item
- Mon. Apr. 28    Studio – Performance item
- Wed. Apr. 30    Studio – Performance item
- Mon. May 5     Final Recital at Wang Theater
- Wed. May 7     Studio - performance break-down

## CLASS PROTOCOL

Cell phones must be switched off during class.

## CLASS RESOURCES (examples below)

Library resources

Blackboard

Writing Center

Career Center

Others (see link) <http://stonybrook.edu/aadvising/tut.html>

The University Senate Undergraduate and Graduate Councils have authorized that the following required statements appear in all teaching syllabi (graduate and undergraduate courses) on the Stony Brook Campus. See also <http://www.stonybrook.edu/provost/facultyinfo/Syllabus%20Statement.doc>

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities> ]

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

## **CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.