Overview
The Theatre Arts performance-related classes are fundamental to the Westmont Theatre and Dance program. In this course, students create, rehearse and perform in the studio with the ultimate goal of bringing their choreographed piece to either a senior theatre project, a mainstage play or dance concert. The performance component offers an opportunity for students to integrate their studio work, first in a small venue, where they develop and test their abilities in front of one another. This course, along with other performance-related courses in the department, contributes to the overall cultural life of Westmont by presenting theatre and dance that entertains, teaches and raises important issues and concerns in both the “mystical” world of the theatre and the real world at large. All students are invited to take this course, along with Theatre and Dance students. Toward this end, the department’s upper division courses satisfy the General Education requirement for Competent and Compassionate Action: Presentations: Students commit themselves to learning the art of making movement or dance pieces through intensive, community-building artistic work, first in the studio, and then on to a larger venue. They learn to communicate with a full range of expressive behaviors in an environment of mutual support and understanding and experience the rewards that come from rehearsing and performing original choreography from their own movement vocabulary.

Course Description
Choreography is the art of making dances. Composition involves the various means by which choreography is accomplished. Composition elements and forms will be explored along with effort-shape, contact improvisation and partnering. A basic understanding of the dynamics of stage space will also be explored with the ultimate goal of presenting a piece on the mainstage, the Christmas Festival or The Fringe Festival. The place of dance as a creative art will be explored as it relates to “THE CREATOR” in Genesis 1-2.

Prerequisites
Sophomore-Seniors

Objectives

(100% effort)

1. To learn how to choreograph dances and present a finished piece=20%*
2. To record the processes and choreography in a weekly journal=20%
3. To experiment with effort-shape by learning Labanalysis=20%
4. To learn to partner/contact improvisation=20%
5. To become a co-creator=20% (with The Creator of Genesis 1)
Theatre Policy and Grading Procedures
1. Only 2 absences will be allowed or class grade will be lowered for every absence exceeding the 2 (See Student Handbook); coming in late or leaving early will count toward abs after 2 and will affect your final grade.
2. The class is required to see or be involved in a professional or semi-professional performance and write a critical analysis of the concert: technique, design & tech.
3. The Student Handbook defines academic dishonesty as “plagiarism” (the use of someone else’s words or idea (or choreography) without giving proper credit). Violations of academic dishonesty will be handled according to college policy: accessed on the Westmont website. This would be a failure to live up to standards of integrity expected of the scholar and Christian, regardless of personal cost. We have responsibility to hold each other accountable to a lifestyle of integrity that reflects high moral standards and Christ-honoring behaviors. Note: If a professional or semi-professional dancer has been involved in either of these companies; then, the dancer or choreographer may have access to certain dance phrases and choreography—however, not to “Full Works” without special permission of the choreographer or “trust”.

Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning, God created. . . .” (Is this your calling?!)
**Weekly Assignments**

**Texts:**
- S. Minton. *Choreography and Composition* (Main Text)
- M. L’Engle. *Walking on Water, Reflections on Faith and Art* *
- T. Tharpe. *The Creative Habit* *

Mon=Texts, Videos and Discussion/Wed=Movement

**Wk 1**  
Intros from texts, Schedule & Video #1   Chapters 1 & Genesis 1(9/1&3)

**Wk 2**  
Chap 1  The Creative Process & Chaps 2 ML & TT/Journal #1(9/8&10)

**Wk 3**  
Chap 1  Improvisation & Chaps 3 ML & TT/Journal entry #2(9/15&17)

**Wk 4**  
Chap 2  Designing and Shaping Dance & Chaps 4 ML & TT/ J #3(9/22&24)

**Wk 5**  
Chap 3  Choreographic Form & Chaps 5/J#4(9/29&10/1)

**Wk 6**  
Chap 4  Staging & Video #2 & Chaps 6 ML & TT/J#5(10/6&8)

**Wk 7**  
Chaps 7 ML & TT/J#6(Wed 10/15)  Fall Holiday Monday

**Wk 8**  
Midterm due on Journal Reflections & Chaps 8 ML & TT(10/20&22)  
5 page paper on Texts, Videos & Choreographic Process to this point

**Wk 9**  
Choreography & Video #3  Chaps 9 ML & TT/ J#7(10/27&29)

**Wk 10**  
Choreography & Chaps 10 ML & TT/ J#8(11/3&5)

**Wk 11**  
Choreography & Chaps 11/J#9(11/10&12)

**Wk 12**  
Choreography & Chaps 12/J#10(11/17-22 work on Fall Dance Concert)  
It is required that you choose some aspect of helping with the concert.

**Wk 13**  
Choreography & Appendix/Biblio/J#11(11/24 Monday)  Thanksgiving follows

**Wk 14**  
Choreography Continued (11/8&10)

**Wk 15**  
Choreography & Finished Production (May extend to The Fringe April ’09)

**Wk 16**  
Final Paper due on Reflections (based on your journaling)* The 10 page paper is Reflective: based on your process of choreography as it relates to the readings, your dancers, music, staging and the mid-or final performance. The paper also records your joys, frustrations and feelings about being a choreographer—how it differs from being a dancer under another choreographer, and finally, how does your craft relate to your faith? (Paper & Interview Thurs 12-2 pm 12/18)