**Assignment 2—Dance Hall to Screen**

**15% of your grade NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Due Dates:**

**TUESDAY CLASSES**

**February 14—Proposal Due/email to Dr. Stern**

**February 28—Drafts of Individual Assignment completed and emailed to presentation group**

**February 28-March 21—Organize Group Presentation:**

**March 21** **—In-class Group Presentations/Final Individual Assignment Due. *NO Late assignments accepted.***

**WEDNESDAY CLASSES**

**February 22—Proposal Due/email to Dr. Stern**

**March 8— Drafts of Individual Assignment completed and emailed to presentation group**

**March 8-March 29— Organize Group Presentation:**

**29** **—In-class Group Presentations/Final Individual Assignment Due. *NO Late assignments accepted.***

**Purpose:**

To compare a social dance style to a theatrical, choreographed performance of that dance style. To investigate the dance’s meaning to its community, or its role in a cultural or religious tradition. How are the social version and the choreographed version the same? How are they changed in each context?

**Explanation:**

Social dance is any dance performed by non-professional dancers in a non-theatrical setting. Social dance is generally tied to a tradition or dance style; at times, it may also be connected to a religious event. Social dance may take place in any setting (a place) in which a community dances together—in school gyms, clubs, dance halls, homes, religious hall, etc. Social dancing takes place during family parties and celebrations, and at community gatherings, both religious and social. In traditional communities, everyone at a social dance event knows each other. For the past 100 years, social dance has also taken place in public settings among strangers as well as friends. For further information and definitions of the terms “culture,” “social dance,” “in society,” and “on screen,” see the end of this rubric.

Social dance is often used in a choreographed version by film-makers, theatrical directors, choreographers, in music videos, and so forth. In performance, social dance can quickly mark or identify a setting, identify a character or time. Choreographers sometimes use social dance because of interest in the steps and style.

Sometimes a dance style is created first for a film or video. Learned from these sources, it then becomes a social dance. Examples include:

* *Bangara vs choreographed dancing in a Bollywood film.*
* *Disco dancing in a club vs John Travolta in* ***Saturday Night Fever****.*
* *Tango vs Antonio Bandera in* ***Take the Lead***
* *In 2007 rapper Soulja Boy performed a dance in his video for “Crank That.” The dance went viral in schools and online videos and was called Soulja Boy.*
* *Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” came out in 1983. The dance**was immediately part of social dancing in schools and at parties. In 2004 it was re-choreographed for the film* ***13 Going On 30*** *signifying that time period****.***

Ballet, tap, modern and other primarily theatrical dance forms are *not* social dances. They are *not appropriate* for this assignment.

**PART 1: Steps for Completing The Individual Assignment**

**Length: *4 paragraphs to 1 ½ pages***

1. **Pick a dance or dance style**

The dance can be one you like to dance yourself, with your family, in your church or community, or a dance you’re interested in or have always wanted to learn. It can be from any culture, tradition or style of dance.

2. **Find 2 video**s **of your dance style**

A. Video 1—The dance socially. How does it look when people gather to dance?

B. Vdeo 2—A choreographed performance of the social dance from a movie, a

musical, television, or so forth.

Make sure you write down the *video title and copy the url*. You may need to use it in your presentation and will need to include it in your individual paper and source list.

3, **Watch the videos**.

Take notes.

—First look at the social version.

How is the dance is done? Notice the steps. Notice how the dance fills the dance floor. Can you explain the steps? Who is dancing? Is it danced in a group? Couples? Solo? What is the music like? What do they wear? What makes someone a good dancer? What should you never do when dancing? What else do you notice?

—Then watch the performance version. How is the dance different in a performance than it is socially?

4. **What do you know?**

If you participate in the dance form, if you are a dancer, include anything you know about the dance from your own experience. Can you describe how it feels to dance your social style? Can you describe how you learned it? Can you describe the steps?What is the appropriate etiquette? Are there social dos and don’ts associated with your style?

5. **Research your dance form**

Using online sources and assigned course readings:

Find out all you can about the *social dance style*. Decide what you want your classmates to *understand about how the dance is performed*. *How is a performance different?*

6. **Write your individual paper**

Pretend no one else knows this dance

A. What is most important or interesting about the dance? Include facts and information from your research and from personal knowledge. These facts can include: Its’ meaning to its community. The history of the dance. Does it have a religious function? Who usually participates in this dance? Where is it danced? How is the dance learned? During what social events or special occasions is it danced? Can you find out anything about how the dance has changed over time? (1 paragraph)

B. Describe the social dance including steps, costumes, partnering, space etc. (1 paragraph.)

C. Describe the performed dance. Focus on how it is different than the social dance and how it is similar to the social dance. Is there a difference in the movement? In the costume? In the space the dance fills? In how partnering or group movement are performed? How do we know we are watching a performance? (1-2 paragraphs)

D. What has to change to put the dance on stage? How does someone recognize this as a performance of the dance, not a social dance? (1-3 sentences.)

E. What does this dance style mean to you? Why did you choose it? (1 paragraph)

**7. Print a copy of your paper to turn in.**

**PART 2: Steps for Completing Group Assignment and Presentation**

**10 to 12-minute group presentations**

1. **Decide approach to group presentation. This will vary according to the make-up of the group.**
   1. *IF* everyone has the same topic you can divide up the parts of your presentation assigning each person one part.

ie. History, explanation of dance steps, explanation of social dance event, explanation of performance

**Write an introduction for the presentation.** The introduction will consider how the dance styles or different versions of the dance are related

* + What connections can you find between the dance styles?
  + If they all the same, write a short history based on everyone’s research.
  + What variations do you see in the different social and live performances?
  + How is the social dance performed—steps, partnering, what should people never do?
  + How is the dance different when adapted for film, television or the stage?
  + Does the dance serve the same purpose in all communities?
  + Do they serve the same purpose in the theatrical performances? If not, how is it different?
  + Does the media refer to the dance symbolically?
  + Is there any other important information you want to share in your presentation?