**UMS Night School 1/27/14**

**Key Themes, Players, and Definitions**

There are multiple perspectives and views on what is considered dance based on our own personal experiences of dance and movement. See below for a list of video links provided by facilitator Clare Croft that provides an overview of various types of dance practices.

1. Martha Graham (Modern Dance Pioneer)

[Biography](http://marthagraham.org/about-us/our-history/#martha-graham)

[Lamentation (1930)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb4-kpClZns)

The experience of finding meaning through live dance performance

1. West Side Story/ Jerome Robbins

[“America”](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhSKk-cvblc) (from 1961 film)

[About the Show](http://www.westsidestory.com/)

“How space affects reading of a dance”

In this musical, relationship between text and music allows us to read dance as subtext (choreographic tricks)

\*\*[Pasodoble](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh-PavCBwTU) (Spanish for “double step” movement vocabulary that America draws from)

1. [Capoeira](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8gkejEaqd4)

“Only the Strong” “Dance as Resistance”

[Compagnie Kafig](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fTtPrrKEPo)

1. [Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvrp2USH_LY) (2008)

How Inanimate Objects Can Be Read as Dance

Regimented movements/ritual can become sites of choreography

1. \*\*Contact Improvisation

Steve Paxton (major contributor to contact improvisation)

[Goldberg Variations](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfkCuvp0-jI) (1997)

What does it mean to use dance as experiment as in the case of Paxton?

1. Glenn Gould

[Goldberg Variations](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2YMSt3yfko) (1981)

How other art forms or activities can be considered dance

**\*\*Vocabulary**

1. Choreography --- the art of designing sequences of movements in which motion, form, or both are specified
2. Contact Improvisation---Contact improvisation is a dance technique in which points of physical contact provide the starting point for exploration through movement improvisation
3. Modern dance – acceptance of the vernacular established Late 19th century to 1960s. Incorporation of bare feet, floor work, use of gravity, and embrace of freedom created a movement era that opposed ballet. Key players include (but not limited to): Jose Limon, Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, and Martha Graham. The idea that certain movements is accessible to all and can unleash human emotion is a central theme in modern dance. Term first coined in “[The Modern Dance](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_modern_dance.html?id=ybpOAAAAMAAJ)” by New York Times Critic John Martin (1933)
4. Postmodern dance—Characteristics include collage, aesthetics, a resistance to linear time, the use of everyday movement. Central figures include (but not limited to): Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Steve Paxton, and Yvonne Rainer
5. Pas de deux -- a dance for two people. Traditionally used in ballet to refer to the partnership of a male and female dancer
6. [Pasodoble](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh-PavCBwTU) (Spanish for “double step” movement vocabulary that America draws from)

**Links of Interests**

Helen Keller “[The Seeing Hand](https://librivox.org/the-world-i-live-in-by-helen-keller/)” from *The World I Live In* (provided by Sharon) -