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| Syllabus/Course Outline  DCE 690 Reading and Conference Fall 2012  2 Credits  Pegge Vissicaro  School of Dance, Arizona State University | Ashlee Ramsey  5717 Friendship Circle  East Bend, NC 27018  [Ashlee.Ramsey@asu.edu](mailto:Ashlee.Ramsey@asu.edu)  (336) 699-8143 |

**Introduction/Abstract**

This Reading and Conference centers on the Chinese Martial Arts of Kung Fu, Tai Chi and Chinese Medicine. Initial research interests focus on two concepts: 1) Beliefs and practices regarding human anatomy including components of physicality, spirituality and energy; 2) Individual and subjective languages of kinesthetic experience including the actual embodied experiences of the researcher, ways in which the researcher describes these experiences, as well as instructional or descriptive verbal accounts of research participants (instructors and classmates). Through practice-based methods of attending Tai Chi and Kung Fu classes at Cloud Forest Chin Woo Martial Arts Association, journal writing and the production of an ongoing blog or website that chronicles the researcher’s process of synthesizing her experience, this project proposes initial aims to explore and bring to light the various ways that bodily experience equals a language of knowledge.

**Outline**

**Research Interest:**

Explore various ways knowledge takes the form of kinesthetic perceptions and embodied experience.

**Focus Areas:**

* Chinese Martial Arts including:
* Kung Fu – Internal Iron Palm style and Shaolin Five Family Fists style.
* Tai Chi – Emperor’s Long Fist style
* Chinese Medicine

**Initial Focus Topics:**

* Beliefs and practices regarding human anatomy including components of physicality, spirituality and energy.
* Physicality
* Spirituality
* Energy
* Individual and subjective languages of kinesthetic experience including:
* Actual embodied experiences of the researcher
* Ways in which the researcher describes embodied experiences
* Instructional or descriptive verbal accounts provided by research participants (instructors and classmates).

**Methods:**

* Attend and participate in Tai Chi and Kung Fu classes at Cloud Forest Chin Woo Martial Arts Association in Winston-Salem, NC.
* Maintain personal journal
* Create a website/blog that chronicles discoveries and creative synthesis of these discoveries

**Methodology:**

* Based on methodological axioms and assumptions of emergent design paradigms including:
* Naturalistic Inquiry
* Grounded Theory
* Four Seasons of Ethnography
* Incorporating research into methodological concept of *kinesthemic* knowledge developed by Joann Keali’inohomoku and elaborated upon by Pegge Vissicaro.

**Confidentiality and Ethnographic Consciousness:**

* All research participants will remain unidentified unless otherwise requested.
* When resourcing or directly quoting verbal accounts of research participants:
* Permission will be obtained before verbal accounts are included on website/blog
* If permission is obtained participants may choose to:
* Remain anonymous
* Receive alias name for reference
* Receive direct reference
* If interviews are conducted, participants will be presented and asked to sign an Interview Information Letter that:
* Adheres to ASU’s Institutional Review Board standards for conducing research with human subjects
* Explains to interviewee or research participant his or her rights in terms of:
* Study Purpose and Description of Research Activities
* Confidentiality
* Withdrawal Privilege
* Voluntary Consent

**Evaluation:**

* Completion of project
* Website/Blog entries demonstrate researcher’s:
* Critical consideration of emerging data and theoretical resources
* Personal interpretation and creative synthesis of research data
* Awareness of her own subjective perspective and its transformative effect upon research data throughout the process of creative synthesis.

**Semester Outline**

**Ongoing Activities:**

* Attend Tai Chi and Kung Fu classes – 2–3 days/week = 4-6 hours/week.
* Personal handwritten journal entries per class.
* Handwritten fieldnotes per class.

**Benchmark Projects:**

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| September 3 – 9 | Create website/blog |
| September 10 – October 7 | Minimum 1 website/blog entry |
| October 8 – November 4 | Minimum 1 website/blog entry |
| November 5 – December 12 | Minimum 1 website/blog entry |