

# **Experimental College**



## **COURSE CATALOG**

### **EXCO FAIR**

**ROOT ROOM,  
CARNEGIE  
BUILDING**

**WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
6 – 8 PM**

*Save Trees!  
Share this with your  
friends!*

# **Spring**

# **09**

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The Experimental College—affectionately known as ExCo—is a credit-offering, student-run department of Oberlin College. It was established in 1968 through legislation passed by the Educational Plans and Policies Committee and the College Faculty. ExCo's main goal is to serve as a free community educational program open to everyone, with a non-traditional definition of education. The number of classes offered through ExCo varies each semester, but there are usually between 60 and 90. Because the ExCo committee designs no specific curriculum for the department, each semester's courses reflect the current interests of the Oberlin community. ExCo instructors may be townspeople, College or Conservatory students, or faculty and staff members. Instructors are fully responsible for the content of their courses: materials, class size, meeting places and times – everything.

### **About Registration**

***The ExCo Fair for Spring 2009 courses will take place on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Root Room in the Carnegie Building on the Oberlin College campus.***

The ExCo Fair is a place for students to learn about and to sign up for ExCo courses (proxies may be sent to sign up for absent students). Admission (receiving consent to register) to all classes is done by lottery, except when an application or audition is used. Registration is done either through PRESTO or at the Registrar's office.

To register for College credit for an ExCo course, students must be consented by the ExCo instructor and can then register using PRESTO. **The deadline for ExCo add/drop is Wednesday, February 11, the same as the Registrar's deadline for other College courses. No exceptions can or will be made, and ExCo has no control over this deadline. Please consult the Spring 2009 Schedule of Classes on the Registrar's webpage, <http://www.oberlin.edu/regist/excospring09.html>, for ExCo Course Registration Numbers (CRNs).**

For courses with enrollment limits, admission will be determined after the Fair has closed. Instructors are also responsible for contacting all students who signed up about whether or not they were admitted.

### **About Credit**

Students currently enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and/or the Conservatory of Music may receive academic credit for work in ExCo courses. Course work requirements vary from course to course, as supervised by the Committee. At present, students may apply no more than 5 ExCo credits towards graduation.

ExCo courses are offered for a specific amount of credit (1 or 2 hours). However, *PRESTO assigns 0 credit hours as a default, so students must use the Variable Hours Option to receive higher amounts of credit.* Students wishing to receive less than the standard amount of credit are still expected to complete all the work required for the course. Instructors may receive credit for up to one credit more than the number for which the course is being offered.

## **The ExCo Committee**

The ExCo Committee is made up of Oberlin College students who volunteer their time and energy. Committee members are responsible for reviewing class applications, coordinating registration and paperwork, and dealing with public relations and the day-to-day concerns of ExCo instructors and students. We also put together the catalog that you are now holding.

Currently the committee members are:

***Matthew O'Connell***  
***Alex Roseman***  
***Elissa Israel***  
***Jacob Myers***  
***Joshua Chapman***  
***Kateryna Kuksenok***  
***Sage Aronson***  
***Teddy Pallis***

If you have questions or comments about ExCo, or if you want to join the committee, please stop by our office, Wilder Hall room 302. If the office is closed when you visit, please note the office hours posted on the door, e-mail us at [exco@oberlin.edu](mailto:exco@oberlin.edu), or visit our webpage at [www.oberlin.edu/exco](http://www.oberlin.edu/exco).

# COURSE OFFERINGS

## SPRING 2009

### COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

**Animal Rights 101** **0-1 Credit**  
**Ian Santino and Kathryn Hart** **EXCO-101**

We will explore whether the systematic use of animals in our society is acceptable, whether it needs to be reformed, or whether it needs to be eliminated. We will examine a variety of questions: Is it justifiable to eat and experiment on nonhuman animals? What is speciesism and is it defensible? How does the human use of nonhuman animals relate to systems of oppression like racism and sexism? Class meetings will focus on in-depth engagement with and discussion of these issues. All perspectives welcome.

**History 101: History of the American Indian Movement** **0-1 Credit**  
**Robert Roche** **EXCO-106**

This course, taught by the Director of the Cleveland American Indian Movement, will introduce students to the history and present activities of the American Indian Movement and facilitate opportunities to get involved. No previous knowledge of American Indian History is required.

**Circle That "A"!: Anarchism Then and Now** **0-1 Credit**  
**Jesse Sternberg** **EXCO-126**

In this course, we will move past stereotypes and misconceptions to discuss various anarchist schools of thought and their relationship to more familiar radical political philosophies like socialism and radical trade unionism. We will trace anarchism from its 19th century origins, to its depression-era hey-day, to its commodification as part of punk rock culture in the 70's and 80's and, most importantly, to its significance in today's world.

**Mama Gena's School of the Womanly Arts** **0-1 Credit**  
**Holland Hamilton and Magalee Cirpili** **EXCO-127**

The aim of this course is to revive the lost arts of "identifying your desires, having fun no matter where you are, knowing sensual pleasure, befriending your inner bitch, flirting (in a way that makes your day, not just his), and more- because making pleasure your priority can actually help you reach your goals." We will be using Mama Gena's School of Womanly Arts as a guide for this course. This course will help women apply these arts to find more pleasure and satisfaction in romantic relationships, professional relationships and even friendships. We will have weekly homework assignments that will reinforce these ideas, such as creating a desire list, creating your own "Womantra," and taking steps to confront your fears. We will also have class activities such as movie nights and fieldtrips to put some of our skills into practice.

**Anti-Racist Organizing and White Privilege Exco** **0-1 Credit**  
**Hannah Lindner-Finlay** **EXCO-130**

Many of us have seen and been part of predominantly white activist organizations on campus that are struggling to analyze the different ways power functions, figure out what it means to do anti-racist/multi-issue organizing, and/or change our work to reflect anti-racist priorities. This course is intended to fill some of those needs. This course is designed for white privileged folks, but is open to anyone.

**Art of Warcraft: Closer Look at the Virtual World Phenomenon** **0-1 Credit**  
**Jules Brouillet** **EXCO-131**  
This course looks at virtual world through an academic lens. We begin the academic section by defining and identifying the essential features of modern virtual worlds, how they originated and how they are expected to evolve in the future. The focus will be on the subcategory of virtual worlds known as massively multiplayer online games (MMOGs). We will discuss why the majority of successful online games are role playing games and how that has influenced their design. The second section of the course will address the internet gaming community, the challenges of operating a mmog, virtual property and civil rights, emigration to virtual universes, and related topics. The final section will examine the incentives used to keep the player base active in World of Warcraft and how they are used effectively.

**Hacking Oberlin** **0-1 Credit**  
**Jesse Baer** **EXCO-133**  
"Lifehacking" is the art and science of figuring out systems, schemes, tricks, and shortcuts to make life easier, more productive, and more fun. In this course we apply that approach to life at Oberlin. Through fearless experimentation, we will discover ways to get more done, make more friends, and save money. And when we've found what works and what doesn't, we'll put it all on a wiki, to benefit future generations of Obies.

**The Biggest Parade** **0-2 Credits**  
**Helen Hare and James Rowell** **EXCO-134**  
The purpose of The Biggest Parade is to pass-on an educational knowledge of the grass-roots and community organizing skills involved in Oberlin's annual Big Parade--our biggest and most creative homespun community arts event! Most of the course work involves actual (and sometimes tedious) organizing activities, but organizers are greatly rewarded. Students must be excited about the event, and committed to working as an organizer. Taking this ExCo will greatly develop your community organizing skills.

**Oberlin OutLoud: Audio Journalism and Podcasting** **0-2 Credits**  
**Annie Strother and Emmy Brockman** **EXCO-136**  
Are you a compulsive listener of public radio? Do you dream of being the next Ira Glass? Has Terry Gross ever been the highlight of your day? Then let's hang out! This class will discuss audio storytelling and documentary, journalistic responsibility, sound production, new media technology, and peer editing. Together, we will produce a series of podcasts telling stories from the Oberlin community, past and present. We all know Oberlin characters whose amazing stories deserve to be shared. Now's your chance to record and present their experiences to the rest of the world.

**Problem Solving 101** **0-1 Credit**  
**David Sokoll** **EXCO-149**  
In Problem Solving 101: A World Café, we will be examining the decision making process with a focus on gaining an understanding of how groups create solutions. Through an adherence to the formats of a few experiential learning processes, World Café, Circle, and Open Space Technology, we will approach a few key goals while hopefully having fun discussions and forming strong interpersonal bonds.

**ESL Tutoring/ Survey on Immigration Issues** **0-2 Credits**  
**Marian Dalke, Vilma Uribe, and Elizabeth Stoiaken** **EXCO-156**  
This class will teach students how to teach English as a Second Language. You will spend most of the ExCo time teaching, along with an instructor or another experienced ESL teacher. We will also have at least four meetings as a class to familiarize you with teaching techniques and resources, evaluate class progress, and share experiences and problem-solving techniques. We also hope to familiarize you with and engage you in local immigration issues through assigned readings and facilitated discussions.

**SexCo (2 sections)** **0-2 Credits**  
**Olimpia Lee, Thomas Shannon, Allison Carlise, and Anjali Chaudhry** **EXCO-165**  
This course offers information about sexuality and sexual health issues, including sexual practices, contraception, safer sex, anatomy, common sexual health problems, STIs, pornography/erotica, birth, adoption, abortion, sex work/prostitution, gender issues, and sexual orientation. Class meets once a week for 2 hours, and an optional counseling skills session is offered for an additional 1 hour a week. Students successful in both sessions may apply to be SIC counselors, but you need not want to be a counselor to take the class.

**US Labor History** **0-1 Credit**  
**Gil Kudrin** **EXCO-175**  
This course will cover the movement of organized labor in the US from the inception of the Industrial Revolution to the present. It will explain the contributions by various political and social tendencies, the strategies that led to organized labor's greatest victories, and the frequent clash of interests inside the movement itself that often led to defeats. The instructor has participated in part of this history.

**Issues in Women's Health** **0-2 Credits**  
**Olimpia Lee and Katie Morrison** **EXCO-185**  
How do different groups of women and individuals interact with the health care system, their bodies, and popular health culture? What can we do about it? Through readings, discussion, and informal research projects, we will address the day-to-day health concerns of ourselves and different women, and how these connect to larger theoretical and political issues. Themes connecting the whole semester include the ways class, race and sexuality change women's health experiences and options, and the importance of informed choice in every area of health.

**Leadership 100** **0-1 Credit**  
**Andy Stillman and Kevin Wahl** **EXCO-188**  
This course will focus on 6 necessary character qualities of great leaders. Each lesson includes a key phrase to define the character quality we are teaching and an exercise to put into practice what we are teaching. Required Reading: *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* by John C. Maxwell.

## **LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND RELIGION**

**Introduction to Quakerism** **0-1 Credit**  
**Timothy Morgan and Monica George** **EXCO-213**  
Introduction to Quakerism is an Exco that focuses on the history of the Religious Society of Friends (a.k.a. Quakers), the influence of Quakers and Quaker teaching on society today and the general beliefs and practices of Quakerism.

- The Freethinker ExCo: Atheism and Agnosticism** **0-1 Credit**  
**Henry McCaslin** **EXCO-216**  
 A discussion and exploration of Atheism and Agnosticism, the influence of religion in our society, the role of the non-believer, and the meaning of life. For students of all faiths and no faith.
- Introduction to Modern Welsh** **0-2 Credits**  
**Sam Jones** **EXCO-227**  
 As a rarely-studied European language, Welsh is of interest for many reasons. Not Romance, Germanic or Slavic, but Celtic, it presents a number of unusual linguistic features that will be fascinating to those with an interest in language, and its rich literature and status as a healthy minority language make it of great interest culturally, and from a point of view of cultural politics. And did you know that Tolkien based one of his "elvish" languages on Welsh?!
- Art, Music and Israeli Society** **0-1 Credit**  
**Matan Glazer** **EXCO-259**  
 In this course we will open our eyes and minds, learn about the modern state of Israel, it's culture, history and society through it's rich literature, movies, music, news and brilliant and interesting people. We will hear and discuss personal experiences, people's knowledge and understanding of this topic, and compare ideas and ideals.
- Beginning Swedish Language and Culture** **0-1 Credit**  
**Emma Anderson and Erika Raberg** **EXCO-247**  
 This class is intended to give an overview of the Swedish language, as well as present various aspects of Swedish and Scandinavian culture. The course will cover vocabulary, verbs, grammar, and sentence construction (we'll move fast!) as well as geography, history, literature, music and film. The course will meet twice per week - one mandatory, 1.5 hour evening session of language instruction and culture discussion, and one optional (but you must attend four!) shorter conversation sessions with a fika, or small snack. There will be weekly "readings" of cultural objects.
- Storytelling Workshop (2 sections)** **0-1 Credit**  
**Aries Indenbaum, Elizabeth Hibbard,**  
**Amanda Lozada, and Andrew Gombas** **EXCO-255**  
 This is an opportunity for students to refine and improve their storytelling abilities. Through weekly assignments and comments from the group, we will identify areas for improvement and effective techniques. We will explore wide variety of styles and genres, from personal experience, to creation myths, to jokes.
- Elementary Korean I** **0-2 Credits**  
**Hae-Young Chung and Mo-Ran Park** **EXCO-257**  
 Designed for students with no prior knowledge of Korean, this course is an introduction to basic grammar, sentence formation, and vocabulary of the modern Korean language. Reading and writing Hanguk, the Korean alphabets, will be emphasized. Culture is an important thread that is tightly woven throughout the course. Conducted in English.

**Elementary Korean II**  
**Hwan Choi and Eugene Kang**

**0-2 Credits**  
**EXCO-258**

Designed for students who already took Elementary Korean I, this course is a second introduction to basic grammar, sentence formation, and vocabulary of the modern Korean language. Reading and writing Hangul, having conversation in Korean, will be emphasized. Culture is an important thread that is tightly woven throughout the course. Conducted in English.

## **COMPUTERS, MATH AND SCIENCE**

**UFO ExCo**  
**Aaron Clark**

**0-1 Credit**  
**EXCO-355**

The subject of UFOs and aliens is one that has fascinated people for a long time. It is usually brushed aside by mainstream science while the media use it for entertainment purposes. Most of what the public knows about UFOs is from movies and the occasional thirty-second sound clip on the evening news. Over the last fifty years many researchers have collected lots of important data. We will look at this information to get a better perspective on the UFO and alien question. Topics to be covered include Ancient UFOs, the Roswell Incident, Men in Black, Alien Abductions, Crop Circles and more.

**Competitive Computer Programming**  
**Kateryna Kuksenok and Michael Brooks**

**0-1 Credit**  
**EXCO-360**

In this course, we will meet once a week to learn techniques and discuss strategies for programming competition. We will conduct mock programming contests using the same software environment used at ACM International Collegiate Programming Competition and discuss methodologies for solving problems quickly. Prior programming experience required; C, C++, or Java recommended.

**Intensive MCAT Preparation**  
**Carol Sedgwick**

**0-1 Credit**  
**EXCO-376**

This student-run class will review all the topics covered on the MCAT exam. Participants will need to purchase the Examcracker Complete Study Package and 6 practice MCAT exams (\$385). Classes will run for two hours twice a week and require substantive out of class preparation.

**Reading the Brain: A Journal Club in Neuroscience**  
**Taylor Soderborg and Leah Bakst**

**0-2 Credits**  
**EXCO-377**

The brain is quite a popular subject, perhaps for obvious reasons. Yet as neuroscience becomes more popular it becomes increasingly important for those in the field to be able to read both popular and primary literature with a keen eye. This course is a journal club aimed at students with a demonstrated interest in science. We will use the field of neuroscience specifically to teach students how to efficiently find, read, and understand primary research literature and compare it to popular publication on similar topics. Topics include autism, obesity, addiction, intelligence, etc. We will also explore the market created around the brain and the implications developments in the field on popular culture.

## MEDIA AND LITERATURE

**Calvin and Hobbes** 0-1 Credit  
**Lucas Trout and Molly Bradley** EXCO-404

Modern cartoonists consider Calvin and Hobbes to be incredibly influential and any fan will attest to its quality and relatability. But what makes it such a great strip? This class will explore the question, looking to the singular personality of its author, Bill Watterson, and to its wealth of themes and ideas. Fan and non-fans equally welcome.

**The Films of Hayao Miyazaki** 0-1 Credit  
**Matthew Furda** EXCO-417

For years, studio Ghibli has served as the paragon of Japanese traditional animation. The film are visually appealing, of course, but do not be fooled - the animation style and occasionally whimsical or fantastic settings belie the stories that address various themes of an utterly human nature: love, death, war, identity, family, the environment, gender roles, and so forth. In this course, we will examine the works of the man who is arguably Studio Ghibli's most incredible creative force: Hayao Miyazaki.

**HBO's Rome** 0-1 Credit  
**Chris Motz and Ploy Keener** EXCO-421

Tired of watching clips in Drew Wilburn's classes? This course will cover the first season of HBO's Emmy award-winning *ROME*, including discussions of historical accuracy, and readings on the history and archaeology of the Roman Empire.

**Analyzing Woody Allen** 0-1 Credit  
**Peter Edmondson and Alex Densmore** EXCO-441

Watching Woody Allen films and reading some of his short stories in order to better understand his mind.

**Shooting Back: Cinema and Palestine** 0-1 Credit  
**Micol Issa, Maia Brown, and Robin Beck** EXCO-444

"Shooting Back: Cinema and Palestine" investigates the power of a series of films covering the Palestine-Israel conflict both as teachers of a "contested" historical subject but also as an aesthetic mode of resistance deserving of analysis in its own right. Throughout the course we watch films made by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals about the conflict and reflect on the context in which they were made as well as their production and impact. Students will be responsible for participating in class discussions. A final project will require groups of students to each select a film along with a group of pertinent readings to lead a class discussion based around them.

**Superheroes** 0-1 Credit  
**Samuel Knight** EXCO-442

What makes a hero? In this course, we will discuss the question from a variety of angles including history, ethics, psychology, and literature. In addition, we will study a variety of different superheroes from both comics and other media, culminating in the creation of a new team of original superheroes.

**"I want to talk to you about Ducts": The Terry Gilliam ExCo** 0-1 Credit  
**Rachel Lambert and Nicholas Wirtz** EXCO-448

You've probably seen *Monty Python* and at least heard of *Brazil*, but there's a lot more to Terry Gilliam's work. Come learn about his favorite worlds of knights, heroes, monsters, and Hunter S. Thompson through the study of his rich film-making career. No cinema experience required, just a serious desire to think critically and talk openly about this amazing director.

***The Boondocks* (TV Series) Exco** 0-1 Credit  
**Marc Kusnetz and Chelsea Daniels** EXCO-449

An in depth look at acclaimed animated series "The Boondocks," from Aaron McGruder. This course will include episodes from the first and second seasons, focusing on discussions of popular culture and contemporary issues.

**Through the Darkest of Future-Past:  
An Exploration of David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*** 0-1 Credit  
**Daniel Grosser** EXCO-456

This Course will introduce and carefully explore *Twin Peaks*, a television series aired in the early '90s and co-concieved by David Lynch and Mark Frost. The course will cover the series plot, the first and second seasons, the prequel film directed by David Lynch, and several written works, including the fictional autobiography of Special Agent Dale Cooper and the diary of Laura Palmer. The pilot, episodes, and prequel will be screened. To ensure that students keep up with the material, there will be short weekly take-home quizzes. The class itself will be separated from screenings and will consist of brief lectures followed by discussion. At the end of the course, students will be required to submit a final paper on whatever aspect of the covered material they choose.

**The Office: Awesome, Awkward, Addicting** 0-1 Credit  
**Caitlin Roseum** EXCO-476

This exco will focus on the underlying themes, character developments and relationships, running plots, interesting film techniques, and the obsessive fandom world surrounding the hit American comedy, *The Office*. A love of awkward comedy and Rainn Wilson is a must. Experience in watching the show is not necessary, but will be helpful to the student, as we will only have time to cover the significant episodes in Season 1-4. The class will meet twice a week to participate in screenings and discussions. Students will be expected to prepare responses for and contribute to discussions each week, and present a final presentation.

**Genius Has Side Effects! The *House* ExCo** 0-1 Credit  
**Hope Rehak** EXCO-486

This class is designed to integrate a fun weekly viewing experience of television's #1 scripted prime time drama with exercises in critical analysis of its scripts, acting and direction. We will be discussing character development and story arcs within the show, but also covering the audience's experience of watching by delving into online message boards and dissecting interviews with the people who make "House MD" happen. Liking the show already is strongly recommended, but all levels of obsession are welcome. There will be a one-hour weekly discussion prior to viewing parties for each episode.

***Gilmore Girls* Exco** 0-1 Credit  
**Olivia Combe and Kelsey Fuller** EXCO-487

This Exco will focus on the heteronormative relationship between Lorelai and Rory Gilmore. Episodes and clips will be shown.

**Films of the Coen Brothers** 0-1 Credit  
**Aaron Botwick and Josh Meadow** EXCO-488  
A critical analysis and discussion of most of The Coen Brothers' films, from *Blood Simple* to *Burn After Reading*.

**Smarter than the Average Cartoon: Adult Swim ExCo** 0-1 Credit  
**Adrian Oei** EXCO-559  
Viewing, discussion and in depth study of original adult swim animated programming and the cultural phenomena surrounding it. There will be particular focus on *Venture Bro.* and *Metalocalypse*.

**Chosen: Buffy the Vampire Slayer** 0-1 Credit  
**Elena Gambino and Connor Goldsmith** EXCO-604  
An intellectual reading of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the often underestimated cult hit and landmark program in serialized television. This course will assume basic familiarity with the program, though new viewers are certainly welcome.

**The Concept Album** 0-1 Credit  
**John Russell** EXCO-669  
As the album became a more popular format, artists found themselves challenged to create as impressive and unified a statement as possible within the limits of the two sides of a 33&1/3 inch record. The Concept Album was the natural result. In this class we will discuss the roots, heyday and precarious (through strengthening) survival of the Concept Album. There will be weekly listening by such artists as The Beatles, Miles David, Pink Floyd, Frank Zappa and yes, even Styx. Listening will be provided.

**Zines: Make Yr Mark** 0-2 Credits  
**Meagan Day and Rachel Karasick** EXCO-766  
In the first half of this course, students will be reading and thinking about the role of 'Zines, artisan publications and other independently published materials. The second half of the course will be devoted to the creation of students' own individual and group projects, culminating in a celebration of their completed works.

**Underground Comix** 0-1 Credit  
**Matthew Rumizen** EXCO-4??  
"Did your mother ever tear up your comic books? Did you ever receive warnings about how comic books were going to ruin your mind? Were you given lectures about how comics were cheap trash put out by evil men? Do you feel a spark of guilt every time you pick up a comic book? Do you feel like you ought to be reading a good book instead? Let Zap Comics wisk away all such foolish notions!"

## DANCE AND THEATER

**Argentine Tango I** 0-1 Credit  
**Tim and Joanne Pogros** EXCO-503  
This class will teach how to dance the Argentine Tango in the Close Embrace style of the Milonguero. Students will learn the art of "lead and follow", dancing chest to chest. Emphasis will be on sharing the same axis, navigation, floor craft, non-verbal communication, moving with elegance, and musicality. All students will receive a CD of Tango music. No experience or partner required. Must have leather or hard-soled shoes.

**Argentine Tango II** 0-1 Credit  
**Tim and Joanne Pogros** EXCO-504

This course is a continuation of close-embrace style Argentine Tango, as presented in Argentine Tango 1. This intermediate level class will have emphasis on refining tango skills and creating elegance and style, with the addition of some new choreography and adornments. More time will be spent on the dance floor, as opposed to in instruction. Prerequisites: completion of Argentine Tango 1 or adequate demonstration of skill to instructor.

**Beginning Modern American Swing** 0-1 Credit  
**Matthew Berliner and Ploy Keener** EXCO-505

This class seeks to teach fundamentals of swing and social dancing in general. It is geared for students with no previous dance experience, but designed so that even the most advanced dancers will be able to refine their skills and cultivate a sense of personal style. All students will be expected to master the basic steps of swing. In addition to basic steps, students will learn the core elements of good improvisational swing dancing: frame, balance, musicality, connection, and social dance etiquette. In addition to teaching dance itself, the class will attempt to teach partner dancing, emphasizing the relationship of lead-to-follow and vice-versa, and how a couple can interact with the music to which they are dancing.

**Continuing Tap Dance** 0-1 Credit  
**Haley Gittleman and Rachel Messing** EXCO-518

For those who have completed the Beginning Tap Dance ExCo or who have prior tap dancing experience and wish to continue. Tap shoes are required.

**Intro to Contact Improvisation** 0-1 Credit  
**Alexander Kramer and David Brown** EXCO-522

Come learn and play the art/dance/sport of Contact Improvisation, in a safe and open atmosphere! Share weight as people move through levels and space, using one another's bodies as the dance surface. Study through dancing concepts of movement and social proximity to your fellow people. No dance background required, come exactly as you are, we are open to all. Body-work included. Fun included. Energy, smiles, spirals included, too!

**Performance Swing** 0-1 Credit  
**Elizabeth and Orville Zharoff** EXCO-523

Performance Swing will focus on the performance of lindy hop, charleston, blues, and balboa. Each team member will be required to choreograph a number and perform at various events. This exco requires an extremely high level of commitment and time. Admission by audition only. Prerequisites: Beginning and Continuing Swing.

**Intermediate Contemporary Pop/Hip-Hop Dance and Performance** 0-1 Credit  
**Jay Needham** EXCO-527

This course will explore contemporary pop and pop-influenced hip-hop dance styles, a very music video-esque and L.A. style of pop/hip-hop. We will meet twice a week to explore these dance styles primarily through learning combinations with the aid of across-the-floor and warm-up exercises. Students will learn and expand their movement repertoires by learning choreography and viewing music videos and clips from live dance-intensive performances and music tours. Students will then refine and sharpen these movements and choreography in preparation for a performance for the Oberlin Community. In this way, they will learn new dance styles, improve their performance ability and confidence, entertain the Oberlin Community at large, and most importantly, have fun.

**Irish Step Dancing** **0-1 Credit**  
**Catherine Durkin** **EXCO-528**

This course will teach the fundamentals of Irish step dancing including ceili and group dancing. We will look at the history of the dance and different Irish music. By the end of the class you will have a good understanding of the dance and will choreograph a short step with a partner.

**Exploring Contact** **0-2 Credit**  
**David Brown** **EXCO-541**

This course will be an in depth exploration of Contact Improv beyond the basics. It will focus on improvisational skills in performance and work with scores for developing new and expansive types of dancing. We will take the ABCs of contact that we have learned and turn them into poetry. Some experience in Contact Improv s necessary. We will be performing.

**SPARK: the Exco** **0-1 Credit**  
**Niels Bantilan and Kevin Moy** **EXCO-555**

This class will focus on teaching the fundamentals of the various Hip-Hop styles of dance. The different styles we will cover are bboying/bgirling (breaking), popping, and locking. We will go in depth about the importance of these styles in the culture and history of Hip-Hop. By teaching the fundamentals, we will provide students with the vocabulary, skills, and inspiration to develop their own style.

**Theater of the Oppressed** **0-1 Credit**  
**Allison Swaim** **EXCO-561**

Actor/activist Augusto Boal developed what is known as Theater of the Oppressed (TO), a form of popular community-based education that uses theater for transformation and conflict resolution. In the TO ExCo, we'll create a space to dialogue about and re-imagine the world in which we live, using movement, image, storytelling, and improvisation. We'll build an arsenal of TO techniques and use them to engage the Oberlin Community in dialogue.

**Continuing Modern American Swing** **0-1 Credit**  
**Sarah Cassella and Mark Muthersbaugh** **EXCO-571**

This course is for the continuing swing dancer. In order to take the course, you MUST know the lindy hop basic. Prerequisites are either the beginning swing exco or instructor consent (granted through a brief placement audition).

**Theatrical Make-Up: For Stage, Screen and Halloween** **0-1 Credit**  
**Margaret Casey** **EXCO-711**

Interested in fake blood, looking older, looking dead, or painting your face blue? Then you should learn about face paint. This course will teach about face painting from a practical perspective. Each week we will focus on a different style of face painting. Readings for the week will prepare students to paint their faces accordingly, as well as to discuss the technique, history, and style being employed. The final project will be an opportunity for students to share what they have learned through their own original face paint presentation at the end of course party. The class meets for an hour and a half once a week, and the course fee is approximately \$20 for face paint materials. Students may share materials if they would like, or choose not to purchase materials they already have.

**Eurythmy and Anthroposophical Thought****0-1 Credit****Jesse Kane and Andrew Echlin****EXCO-528**

Anthroposophy is a spiritual philosophy and science founded by Rudolf Steiner. Anthroposophy offers insights into education, spirituality, agriculture, medicine and the human condition. Eurythmy – inexplicable through words but rewarding through movement – explores relationships between form and movement, language and music. Through its practice, the individual gains an enhanced sense of self and a physical understanding of Anthroposophy. Eurythmy, students will explore themselves and the realms of Anthroposophy.

<b>MUSIC</b>
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**The Metal ExCo****0-1 Credit****Ben Williams****EXCO-613**

The ExCo entitled 'The Metal' is meant to educate both newcomers and veteran enthusiasts alike. This ExCo will explore the past, present, and future of metal in all of its glory, including both large and small groups in several different subgenres from brutal death metal to groovy psychedelic sludge. Newcomers will be introduced to large mainstream bands while veterans will be given the opportunity to learn about more independent underground bands from their favorite subgenres.

**Classical Music of North India****0-2 Credits****Hasu Patel****EXCO-615**

This course is offered by a Professional musician and is aimed to give students an introduction into the theory and practice of classical instruments of Hindustani Music: Sitar, Tabla, and Vocal. Students will be given knowledge of Raga Sangeet and context surrounding this Sacred music. The course will be taught in traditional style and certain rules regarding the instruments, practice, fellow students, and Guru. Instruments are available for learning through the teacher and the Conservatory. This class is a must for the students pursuing music major at Conservatory to differentiate the music in its entirety. Course fee: \$160 per student.

**Oberlin College Marching Band****0-1 Credit****Emily Robinson and Jules Brouillet****EXCO-645**

During the spring semester, the Oberlin College Marching Band teaches parade style marching and music to perform in the Big Parade through town, and possibly out-of-town parades. We also continue to play as a pep band for spring sports. We offer opportunities for music composition and arrangement, as well as planning for the fall's half-time show. We perform with brass, woodwinds, percussion and color-guard. All levels of experience are welcome.

**Music Mentors****0-1 Credit****Melanie Emig and Annie Gordon****EXCO-660**

We will be working in the Langston Middle School Music Department teaching private and group instrumental lessons. You don't need to be in the Conservatory but we do require that you be able to read music. In past semesters we have only worked with the middle school band, but we are working to expand the program to include chorus and orchestra. This is a very rewarding experience for all involved!

**Introduction to Japanese Taiko Drumming** 0-1 Credit  
**Anna Katarina Lunde and Galen Rogers** EXCO-402  
"Taiko" generally refers to modern Japanese drum ensembles, but the word literally means, "fat drum." Japanese taiko drums come in many different sizes and shapes, and modern taiko involves dancing/body movement. This course will provide a history of taiko and basic drumming techniques. The students will learn to play two practice songs/drills and two traditional Japanese taiko songs. As a final product, the class will compose and perform their own taiko ensemble song. The taiko drums and sticks are provided by Icho Daiko, the only taiko group in the Cleveland area. Time permitting, students will get the opportunity to experience hands on drum building. A \$15 fee is required to cover the cost of drum maintenance.

**Steel Drum Exco** 0-1 Credit  
**Ramona Barber and Tyler Stoll** EXCO-413  
Learn how to play steel drums! A portion of class time will also be spent learning auxiliary percussion instruments. The class culminates in a required performance in the Cat in the Cream. For those interested, this performance is the only way to audition for Oberlin Steel.

**'Babelogue'- Women in Rock Music** 0-1 Credit  
**Danielle Kolker** EXCO-6??  
'Babelogue' is a survey course on women in 20th century popular music, concentrating primarily on woman rock musicians. We will read about, listen to, watch, and talk about artists such as Bessie Smith, Nina Simone, Patti Smith, and Bikini Kill, as well as more popular artists like Joni Mitchell and Whitney Houston. Everyone will be encouraged to bring in their own discoveries, as well. Some questions we might ask include:  
Why are there so many female bassists? What might that signify?  
What is the significance of women's-only spaces in music such as the Michigan Womyn's festival?  
What is the status of women in rock bands at Oberlin? Why do you think so?  
There will be two requirements: a presentation on a female rock musician and a final project of your choosing.

## ARTS, CRAFTS AND DO IT YOURSELF

**Pottery Exco** 0-1 Credit  
**Ian Copeland and Will Robbins** EXCO-705  
All levels of pottery welcomed! We will learn new skills and experience guided and independent projects, both through wheel work and handbuilding. Students will also learn basic studio management skills like recycling clay and will prepare pieces for a show at the end of the semester. Course fee of \$30.

**Experimental Typography** 0-1 Credit  
**Ezra Spier and Christopher Gollmar** EXCO-715  
Through their own creative exploration, students will develop a basic knowledge and understanding of typographic practices and techniques including some traditional or historic practices as well as contemporary computer typesetting and typeface design. Assignments are designed to encourage students to explore various facets of nontraditional typography. Through periodic readings and class discussions, students will also develop their knowledge of theory and criticism surrounding experimental typography and type art.

**Introduction to 16mm Film Production** 0-1 Credit  
**Cody Darling** EXCO-726  
We will teach you how to make 16mm films. There is a \$45.00 course fee.

**Introduction to Armory** 0-1 Credit  
**Catherine Conlon** EXCO-727  
Learn to build, test, and fix fencing equipment. Foil, saber, and epee will be covered, with an emphasis to be determined by the class. No technical experience will be required but previous fencing experience is highly recommended. Material fee \$15.

**Knitting for Noobs** 0-1 Credit  
**Emily Robinson and Lucy Gelb** EXCO-728  
This is a knitting course designed for people who have never touched a pair of knitting needles before. We cover basic knitting principles that will give you a solid foundation and prepare you for upper level knitting courses.

**Ladies Basic Bikes** 0-1 Credit  
**Alexa Gully** EXCO-733  
This Course is intended to provide women with a basic understanding of bicycle maintenance, in addition to making the bike co-op more accessible to a demographic that is not typically targeted.

**Fearless Knitting** 0-1 Credit  
**Cory Ellen Boberg and Bethany Draeger** EXCO-746  
In this course, students will move past the basics of knitting and into the realm of garments, lace, colorwork, and cables. For beginning knitters, we will teach intermediate skills such as knitting in the round, purling, and shaping; for intermediate knitters, we have a variety of challenges to offer such as cablework, Fair-Isle knitting, and lace. The goal of this class is to expand the students' fluency with knitting technical language, to increase confidence, and to introduce new concepts. We will also increase the students' knowledge of different fibers and their uses and behaviors.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AND GAMES

**Aikido** 0-1 Credit  
**Danielle De Lanoy** EXCO-805  
The Aikido ExCo is an introduction to the basic principles of Aikido, a modern Japanese martial art. Aikido teaches peaceful conflict resolution by blending with and leading an attack, rather than fighting against an opponent. As the martial effectiveness of this art is not dependent on strength or size, it can be practiced by everyone.

**Beginning Fencing** 0-1 Credit  
**Gregory Solow and Ricardo Barrios** EXCO-810  
Come learn the beautiful and sexy art of fencing! We will be teaching beginning foil, so no experience is required. Next time you need to defend your honor, you'll be ready. \$5 course fee for equipment maintenance.

- Jump Rope** **0-1 Credit**  
**Taylor Rogers and Mike Fry** **EXCO-815**  
 This course will teach the fundamental skills of competition and demonstration jump roping. The class will focus on six central elements of the sport including single rope, double Dutch, traveler, Chinese wheel, long rope, and speed conditioning. In addition, a history of the sport will be covered in class, along with viewings.
- Scrabble® Exco** **0-1 Credit**  
**Connor Lee and Nathaniel Mich** **EXCO-817**  
 The SCRABBLE® ExCo is an opportunity to learn how to play the game like a true player. Whether you have never played before or beat Mr. Mandelman every third Sunday at Kendall, this course will teach you the strategy and techniques employed by members of the National SCRABBLE Association to bring your game to the competitive level. Class will meet for 1.5 hours twice a week. Short practice assignments will supplement in-class play and lessons.
- Hula Hooping** **0-1 Credit**  
**Joshua Talbert** **EXCO-821**  
 All classes will consist of warming up, stretching, general instruction, and independent or group practice. Later on in the course, students will move from skill building to learning about combinations and performing with other students. All students will have the chance to learn at their own pace. A small performance will be expected at the end of the semester OR students may participate in choreographing and performing for OCircus.
- Go Exco** **0-1 Credit**  
**Michael Stevenson** **EXCO-826**  
 Go is an ancient board game originating in China and still very popular in Japan, China, and Korea today, with growing communities in the West. Roughly, Go is about surrounding area and enemy stones. Simple rules give birth to a wide array of strategic ideas and tactical situations; even at the professional level, go is still being explored. This class is intended for beginners and everyone else.
- Ice Hockey** **0-1 Credit**  
**Matt Hollenbeck** **EXCO-828**  
 Learn to skate, play hockey, and about hockey global and historical importance.
- Fundamentals of Rock Climbing** **0-1 Credit**  
**Alex Totoiu, Kate Ewald, Laura Tully-Gustafson, and Liz Witcher** **EXCO-850**  
 The main purpose of this class is to train student to be staff and instructors at the Oberlin College Climbing Wall, located in Phillips gym. The wall is entirely student-run. No experience is necessary for the course, just enthusiasm and a commitment to advance the climbing community at Oberlin College.
- Volleyball** **0-1 Credit**  
**Chen Yan** **EXCO-860**  
 Practice will be held once a week. We will learn the basics of volleyball. All levels are welcome.

**We're All Just Big Babies: Yoga and the Developmental Process** **0-1 Credit**  
**Hannah Hamler and Alison Meyers-Ohki** **EXCO-875**

We're All Just Big Babies: Yoga and Developmental Movement is a yoga class that will focus on movement patterns that are part of our developmental process, both in utero and after we are born. These patterns underlie all forms of movement. This course will seek to impart an understanding of developmental movement and how it relates to their bodies as big babies. We also hope to help students develop their own internal resources and personal yoga practice in order to better engage with their own bodies and the world around them.

**Use Your Head** **0-1 Credit**  
**Elizabeth Landsman** **EXCO-899**

In a high-stress environment such as college, students do not always know instinctively how best to handle stress. In Use Your Head, students will learn how to manage their stress and improve their mental and physical well-being through meditative relaxation techniques, ideokinesis, and visualization. There is a course fee of one dollar.

**PoiCo** **0-1 Credit**  
**Jim Mattingly** **EXCO-560**

You've seen it with glow sticks at the 'Sco, you've seen it with flags at TGIF, and you've seen it with fire at parties - now it's your turn to learn the majestic art of swinging balls. Students of all skill levels will learn a wide array of moves using several styles of swinging (traditional/sock poi, flags, glow sticks, and meteors). A midterm consisting of a short improvisational performance and a final routine with a circus are requirements to receive credit for the course. Students who do not already own poi may pay a \$5 course fee or may be taught to build poi themselves.

## **ExCo Needs YOU!**

Want to join the ExCo Committee?

Want to teach your very own ExCo?

Let us know...

Email [exco@oberlin.edu](mailto:exco@oberlin.edu)

Check out [www.oberlin.edu/exco](http://www.oberlin.edu/exco)