

DAA2105 - CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 2

SPRING 2023

***Syllabus Note/Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. Through the semester, the constitution of the class cohort, unforeseen events, and schedule changes may dictate changes. **Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Any amendment to the syllabus will be sent to you, updated on Canvas, and be clearly stated and available.**

Day: M/W, F Master Class
Time: 10:40 AM – 12:10 PM
Place: M/W G-10/F G-6

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:

Associate Professor *Elizabeth Johnson*
ejohnson@arts.ufl.edu

*Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

Office: Room 234, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion
Office Hours: MW: 1-2:30 PM and Fridays by appointment. Also available through Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5885911063>
Office Phone: 352-273-0522

Syllabi are posted here: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED READING:

Other required articles and handouts are TBD and will be provided on course Canvas site

INTERMEDIATE MODERN DANCE DAA 2105 COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Credits: 2; can be repeated with change in content up to 8 credits. Prereq: audition.

Experience in intermediate level technique, readings, observations and movement exploration exercises.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course says we're about to do contemporary dance practices. What does that mean? Your journey in dance is your own; each person learns and reflects learning differently.

VALUES

I believe dance class is an experimental laboratory where we explore the fundamental skill of attention/attending while experiencing lots of other things: the rigor and pleasure of moving, doubt, frustration, and confident embodiment (among many possible others). I think dance class should also be a place of humility and openness where you can trust yourself as a mover but also develop the patience to **not** know, make mistakes, and be radically accepting of your imperfection (the human condition).

Your **experience** of taking this class is as important as “learning the technique” (and possibly more). Only you know how and what your body feels. As the instructor, my perspective is limited; I can only see things from an observational, outside 3rd person point of view and (unless you directly tell me) have no possible way to know how you are thinking, feeling, or experiencing class. Knowing is quite different from assessing—my outside eye can be a helpful tool but I sadly can't read minds or intentions. So the primary goal of this class is for you to pay more and more authentic attention to your own experience instead of anxious less and less attention which generally forces humans towards unconscious and possibly harmful habits. A common example is anxiously attempting to achieve a movement or step while simultaneously overriding bodily signals like musculoskeletal pain or fatigue (hoping to make the teacher “happy”).

I am not interested in the attainment of bodily shapes, ideas of perfection (which is unattainable), the “right way” to “do technique” etc. and **will not** teach from that vantage point. I am interested in human movement, health, and using anatomical and kinesiological knowledge and wisdom to experience freedom while dancing. Anything called *technique* should serve these goals.

Class material will reflect the eclectic nature of my contemporary training with influences ranging from:

- ❖ Classic moderns (Graham, Horton, Limon, Cunningham, Nikolais, etc.)
- ❖ Post-modern/release technique (Brown, Klein-Mahler, Renée Wadleigh/Viola Farber, etc.)
- ❖ Various somatically informed practices:
 - Laban Movement Analysis
 - Alexander Technique
 - Feldenkrais
 - Body-Mind Centering
 - Dynamic Embodiment

Class time will be spent developing competencies in specific coordinational patterning (supported by specific anatomical and kinesiological knowledge) and **working to quiet the mind** so you can unearth and locate habits which interfere with your success and consistency. The physicality of this class will challenge your body/mind to seek an integrated, whole approach to technique rather than pursuing goal/achievement/shape driven movement (frequently mistakenly perceived as “virtuosic”) often disengaged from personal process and deeper awareness. The semester will begin with foundational work that is simple BUT NOT EASY: fundamental underpinnings of coordination to clarify movement initiation, intention, phrasing, and an understanding of the developmental progression not only in dance but all human movement.

What you can expect to work on in class:

- Efficient alignment and use of your head/neck/spine to guide your whole body (Alexander Technique)
- Anatomical accuracy/embodied anatomy: skeletal (joint action) and large muscle groups (what does what)
- Through specific somatic practices, beginning to understand whole body patterning and coordination. In Bartenieff/Hackney terms: Breath, Core/Distal, Head/Tail, Upper/Lower, Body Half, and Cross Laterality
- Rhythmic challenges and overall musicality including mixed/irregular meter
- Adaptability and accuracy of movement (how you reproduce and integrate what you see)
- Weight sensing/shifting, phrasing, and musicality ← which are all related to rhythm
- Differentiating between shape/making shapes and experiencing movement more wholly transitioning through shapes to keep a sense of flow

COURSE OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE and EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During and upon completion of this course, students should:

1. Embody clear and continued development of kinesthetic and anatomic understanding through taking class.
2. Continue building overall dancing and life skills.
3. Integrate expanding personal knowledge and awareness in collaborative dialogue with instructor's observations
4. Enhance learning perception through all proprioceptive and cognitive systems.
5. Broaden the ability to learn visually and integrate visual information kinesthetically to the body.
6. Recognize habits and develop increasingly mature solutions for coping or change.
7. Broaden the ability to hear the rhythm of the music, and understand phrasing, musicality, and “the bounce” in general.
8. Increase adaptability and endurance—understand that everyone's capacity is unique
9. Practice performance presence and skills: positive energy, concentration, willingness to learn, adaptability.
10. Challenge preconceived and rigid ideas concerning what dancing is “about” and leave mind open for shifts and changes in understanding.
11. Develop and refine expression and artistry.
12. Observe and write about progress and challenges in the course critically and analytically.

Teaching Strategies:

To facilitate and promote the Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes, as the instructor I will:

1. Design a class order, progression, and exercises that develop and support said learning objectives.
2. Encourage a sustainable and compassionate class community where students can take risks and make mistakes free from unneeded stress, judgment, or harsh criticism.
3. Demonstrate and embody class material as accurately as is possible attending to specific details and qualities I would like to see.
4. Explain concepts and answer questions thoroughly.
5. Provide honest and specific assessment and clear communication in class and through email and Canvas correspondence.

6. Provide space and time in class for questions and the working through of concepts including practicing peer assessment.
7. Provide meaningful resources that enhance dance, writing, and historical literacies
8. Listen actively and sensitively to student suggestions, feedback, and concerns.
9. Make changes to the course that honor access, equity, student experience, and student input.
10. Include and relate to students as collaborators and decision makers in assignments and grading.

****Please note that while students will receive individual feedback as time allows, I expect the class community to take general feedback as personally applicable.**

Course Evaluation will be based in the assignments/values listed below and the evaluative language in the course description. Each student's assessment is based solely on individual level of engagement with the course material, theory and concepts and working to integrate the information at the student's developmental level.

LATE WORK: all written assignments will be given a 2 week grace period with no penalty. After 2 weeks, each week the assignment is late will decrease its value by 10%. Without communication or prior agreement with the instructor, assignments that are not completed within reasonable time parameters will receive a zero grade with no make-up alternatives.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Event Attendance and written response – *instructor graded	10%	Written response/mini research. Chosen digital or in person events
Midterm Evaluation *self-graded	10%	Monday 2/13 and/or Wednesday 2/15 filming in class - written response follows
Final Reflection – TBD *collaboratively graded	10%	Final written assignment reflecting on the work of the semester
History and/or Pedagogy Project TBD *class collaboration/choice	10%	Application of teaching concepts and/or historical research
Overall approach to class which includes: physical skill building, aesthetic understanding, and artistry – *collaborative grading	40%	Level of physical coordination/skill and artistic expression should be progressing
Instructor assessment of overall course progress	10%	Improvement in all areas over the semester
Contributions to class community – <i>this grade is correlated to and affected by attendance</i> – *instructor graded	10%	Reflects the kind of energy and attitude with which you approach your work and treat others

➤ **Instructor Expectations: For the best learning outcome, all course assignments should be completed. There are built in extensions for all work with clear penalties outlined.**

➤ **Communication is KEY: a lack of communication prior to late work or for chronic attendance problems will not help your case.**

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	87-85
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	67-63
D-	60-62
E	59 and below

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

UF grading policy is here: [link to the university grades and grading policies](#)

E. Johnson's Dress Policy:

- Dress comfortably and bring extra warm up clothing should the room/building be overly air conditioned.
- Make sure hair is secured away from face
- No large jewelry that can scratch you or catch in others' clothing or hair by mistake
- No chewing gum.

Course Policies:

SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE:

Dance Technique Class Attendance Guide

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance is considered mandatory
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the current SoTD Handbook provided on the Dance Area Headquarters Canvas site:
https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414947/files/70761186?module_item_id=9709746

Dance Area Attendance Policy

For Studio Courses:

For classes that **meet two times a week:**

- Students can take **2** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If the third absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- Excused or unexcused, on the third absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- If the fourth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- **Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material is up to the instructor's discretion.**
- Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, **4** unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

For classes that **meet three times a week:**

- Students can take **3** absences with **no documentation** with **no penalty**.
- If the fourth absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- Excused or unexcused, on the fourth absence, a meeting is required with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course.
- If the fifth absence and all subsequent absences are unexcused, each will result in an additional 5% deduction from the **final grade**.
- **Requirements / opportunities to make up missed material is up to the instructor's discretion.**
- Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, **5** unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course.

Note: Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- illness (doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted and when the return to class activity is expected, doctor name and signature)
- serious family emergencies
- special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- military obligation
- severe weather conditions
- participation in official university activities such as music performances
- athletic competition or debate
- court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Students must inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Dance Technique Class – Makeup Policy

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- Makeup options for absences are available across technique styles and classes. Please communicate with your instructor for approved options.
- Absences from Written Exams, Quizzes, Mid-Terms, and/or Finals may only be made up with approved documentation
- To earn credit (amount of credit determined by the instructor) for an excused absence you must do two things:
 - ❖ Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
 - ❖ Make-up the class with an approved assignment submitted on the required date. If the assignment is to attend another class as a make-up, the student must request permission of that instructor.

Required Meetings, Auditions, and Showings:

SPRING 23 DANCE CALENDAR

JANUARY

9 Dance Area Welcome Back Meeting – 6:30pm-8pm

BA Focused Welcome Back Meeting immediately to follow

11 Tentative: BFA Showcase auditions G-6 6:30-8pm

12-15 Andrea Ward in residence

13 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

18-20 Orange Grove Dance in Residence for Ric Rose Alumni Award activities

19 Matt & Colette talk on Dance/Film G-11 12:50-2:20 pm

Ric Rose Alumni Award Presentation 5:30-7pm

20 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

23 Fittings begin for Dance 2023

Dance 2023 Design Presentations & Company Meeting 6:30-8pm via Zoom

27 BFA Program Audition – 9am – 4:30pm

30 Dance 2023 Load In

TBD: Dance Student Council elections

FEBRUARY

3 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm

UFPA Performance: *STOMP*, 7:30pm

8 Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

10 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm

11 UFPA Performance: Momix: *Alice*, 7:30pm

15 Spring BFA Showcase Production Meeting 3-4pm, Zoom

Dance 2023 Production Meeting 4-5pm, Zoom

16 SoTD Town Hall 10:45am-12pm online

17 Tentative: UnShowing for BFA Showcase Choreographers (during Fri. Masterclass)

Dance Retreat 1-4pm

18 UFPA Performance: Dance Alive: *Horse of a Different Color*, 7:30pm

- 19-22 Dance 2023 Spacing Rehearsals, 6:30-10:30pm, Constans
- 23 Dance 2023 Crew Watch 6:30-9:30pm, Constans
- 24 **Dance Open Conversation 1- 2:30pm**
Doug Varone Master Class G-6
Dance 2023 Tech #1 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 26 Dance 2023 Tech #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 27 Dance 2023 Tech #3 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 28 Dance 2023 Dress #1 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans

MARCH

- 1 Dance 2023 Dress #2 and Production Meeting 7-11pm, Constans
- 2-5 Dance 2023, Constans
- 3 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm
- 6 Dance Dark Day
- 10 BFA Showcase Load In and Audio Ring-out, 9am-5pm, G-6
Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm
- 13-17 Spring Break
- 19 BFA Showcase optional spacing 9-11pm, G-6
- 20 BFA Showcase Lighting Orientation 5-7pm, G-6
BFA Showcase spacing rehearsals 7-11pm, G-6
- 21 BFA Showcase spacing rehearsals 5-11pm, G-6
- 22 BFA Showcase Tech Program A 7-11pm, G-6
- 23 BFA Showcase Tech Program B 7-11pm, G-6
- 24 BFA Showcase Tech with Costumes Program A & Production Meeting 7-11pm, G-6
Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm
- 25 UFPA Performance: Dance Alive: *Swan Lake*, 2 & 7:30pm
- 26 BFA Showcase Tech with Costumes Program B & Production Meeting 1-5pm, G-6
- 27 BFA Showcase Dress Program A & Production Meeting 7:30-11pm, G-6
- 28 BFA Showcase Dress Program B & Production Meeting 7:30-11pm, G-6
- 29–31 Spring 23 BFA Showcase
- 31 Dance Area Retreat– 1-4pm

APRIL

- 1-2 Spring 23 BFA Showcase (continued), Strike 4/2 5:30-7:30pm G-6
- 3 Dance Dark Day
- 7 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm
- 10-14 **CRAs (CRAs meetings schedule TBA)**
- 14 Dance Area Meeting – 1-2:30pm
- 21 Coordinators Meeting – 1-2pm
- 22 UFPA Performance: *Ahuti*: The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble in collaboration with The Chitrasena Dance Company, 7:30pm
- 24 **Final Unshowing – 6:30-8:30pm, G-6**

26 Classes end
Tentative: Senior Circle 12:10-12:30pm, G-6
SoTD Convocation 4-5pm, Constans
TBD: BA Dance Social/ Info Session

MAY

5/1 CRAs – Graduating Seniors – 9am-11:30am and 1pm-3pm (tentative)

Critical Response Appointments for Spring Semester TBD (will be communicated later in the semester):
BFA seniors graduating and all Dance majors: it is your responsibility to know your schedule. These are required meetings. Groups, dates, and links will be announced through the Dance Area Headquarters Canvas site.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Important calendar updates regarding guests will be shared as the semester progresses.

Weeks 1-2: establish class rhythm and applied anatomic and somatic lens. This may go more slowly. We may not yet progress through standing/jumping combinations across the floor (or we may...). Intro to mixed meter (depending on accompaniment).

Weeks 3-5: Emphases on weight shift, spatial intent/imagination/direction, Bartenieff and Dart related body patterning, upper and lower coordination, deepening comfort with floor work.

Week 6: MIDTERM recording and upload

Week 7-8: Class and work on midterm reflection, due in Week 8 or 9

Week 9: Class discussion for final project format. Form partners or groups.

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

Weeks 11-12: Class and work on written response to event attendance.

Week 13: Class

Week 14: Class

Week 15: Class and Final Presentations

Week 16: Class and Final Presentations

Student Injury and Illness Policy:

The Dance Area of SoTD believes that dance student's physical and mental well-being is paramount to success in all arenas of their dance training, from class to the stage. In the case of injury, fostering a productive and holistic response insures a speedy and effective recovery.

FIRST: Please contact the Dance Wellness Clinic through the Canvas site. Also: email Marina at mrenzi@ufl.edu

If the dance student becomes ill or injured to the degree that they cannot attend and participate in dance classes, SoTD sponsored rehearsals, or performances, the 5 steps of the dance student injury and illness policy are to be followed:

1. The student is required to see a health care professional immediately.
2. If the illness or injury prevents the student from participation in dance class, rehearsal, or performance, the student is to request documentation from the health care professional that explicitly projects the duration of the injury, and/or the amount and type of activity recommended for the welfare of the student.
3. Following the appointment with the health care professional, the student is required to bring medical recommendations and related documentation to the attention of his or her instructor(s), choreographer(s), or director(s) as the basis for discussion.

4. Unless otherwise medically advised, the student is prohibited from active participation in all related UFdance activities, classes, events, performances, etc. The student may not personally select one activity as having a higher priority over another. The student is not to dance in any events, activities, performances or rehearsals if the student is not in dance class. If the infirmity culminates in a medical withdrawal, this is also a withdrawal from all performance related activities.
5. The student is never allowed to sacrifice classroom participation for the demands of a performance. The student will not be allowed to participate in a performance if they miss dance class due to an injury. The student is expected to follow the student injury and illness policy even if performances take place beyond the scope of SoTD, as with another UF, professional, or community performing group, etc.

Student on-line evaluation process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF POLICIES

UF Absence Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, as follows:

Source: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.
- You cannot participate in classes unless you are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to Instructors.
- If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Web: counseling.ufl.edu/ 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

GETTING HELP

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: (352) 392-HELP (352-392-4357) - select option 2, <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Please take advantage of these services:

Campus Resources:

- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; <http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

1. UF has an Equal Access Mental Health Clinic that has a Free Therapy Night every Monday night that UF is considered open. Here is the FB page through which one can book appointments as well: <https://www.facebook.com/equalaccessclinic/>
2. The UF School of Medicine Equal Access Clinic website is here and has the above mental health services as well as specialized Women's and LGBT medicine: <https://equalaccess.med.ufl.edu/specialty-clinics-classes/>
3. Alachua County Crisis Center web site: <https://alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisiscenter/pages/services.aspx> Offers Crisis Counseling as well as a Mobile Response Unit that attends to severe mental health crises.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>