

DANCE ENSEMBLE – DAA 4685 SPRING 2024

Instructor of Record:

Associate Professor Elizabeth Johnson
ejohnson@arts.ufl.edu

Day and Time: T/TH 5:10-7:05

Place: G-6

Office: Room 234, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: T/TH: 3:30-5:00 PM and Fridays by appointment.

Also available through Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5885911063>

Office Phone: 352-273-0522

*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.

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

Catalog Description:

Experience in dance ensemble: preparation, performance and production.

Course Description

This course is designed to give you an experience that prepares you for a range of dance performance contexts from pre-professional university student to professional levels. Credit can be for the current semester or retroactive as needed. Dancers cast in my choreographic work are collaborators in original choreography or the reimagining of already existent choreography. They are expected to adapt to the physical and philosophical demands of that particular aesthetic and dance. Cast members collaborate and experiment in these areas: movement invention/vocabulary, theatrical expression (may include talking, singing, manipulation of props), and performance quality. This process culminates with the performance of a dance work in a UF Dance Program performance/Faculty Concert/Spring Into Dance.

Grading Criteria

- **As the Course Description States, this class creates an environment representative of professional rehearsal and performance practices. As such, the grade is based on an overall gestalt of criteria for students to meet professional practice expectations throughout the rehearsal and performance timeframe. Meeting the below expectations consistently will ensure a passing grade in the course.**
- **Grading for this course can be retroactive for work already rehearsed and performed.**
- **Rehearsal Direction can also substitute for a performance grade.**

Expectations:

- Please be prompt and on time to rehearsals warm up, review choreography, and be physically and mentally prepared to dance.
- Please conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner which includes:
 - Limited conversation – all conversations should be related to the actual rehearsal.
 - Working only on material that is related to the choreography (no comp assignments or other choreographers' works).
 - Staying active and involved in the process—no lying down, sleeping, or isolating one's self from the group/class community. **If you are not feeling well, need personal space, etc., only ask—all that is needed is clear communication.
- Please try not to miss rehearsal. Extreme exceptions, personal emergencies or any hint of sickness (fever, vomiting, COVID, flu, etc.) are subject to being excused (see attendance policy). Try to notify me prior to rehearsal if possible.
- **In order to perform the work, you must be present at all spacing and technical rehearsals on stage as well as on time for call during performance week.**
- **If you do miss rehearsal, please contact me immediately by phone or e-mail. I will provide you with my cell phone number.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To expand the dancer's expressive and qualitative range of movement and performance.
- To develop performance qualities which include: musicality, dynamics, spatial clarity, technical specificity, etc.
- To foster the student's capacity to adapt to varying choreographers' approaches to the creative process.
- To provide the student with experiences that strengthen the sense of shared responsibility within a pre-professional creative environment.
- To transfer skills being learned in technique class to a rehearsal context.
- To gain experience and develop an understanding of how to work in an ensemble.
- To empower the person/dancer/ thinker/choreographer in each student.

DRESS POLICY:

Attire in class should be neat, clean and allow for clear execution and observation of alignment and movement. Hair should be secured to allow for full and vigorous moving. Please do not wear watches or jewelry that might be accidentally harmful to other cast members or inhibit movement.

Semester Calendar – Dates to Know

JANUARY

- 8 – 1st Day of classes, welcome back meeting @ 6:30pm, G6
- 9 – Spring into Dance Auditions from 6:30-9:30pm, G6
- 15 – MLK Day, no classes
- 22 – UnShowing #1, 6:30-9:30pm in G6
- 23 – Parsons Dance @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm
- 26 – BFA Auditions
- 29 – UnShowing #2, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

FEBRUARY

- 5 – Possible Dance Open Conversation, 6:30-8:00 in G6
- 16 – Masterclass visit with Bharatanatyam artists (CAME)
- SoTD Town Hall, 10:45am-12:15 pm on Zoom
- 11-13 – BFA Showcase Spacing rehearsals
- 14-16 – BFA Showcase Tech rehearsals
- 18-20 – BFA Showcase final Tech and Dress rehearsals
- 21-25 – BFA Showcase
- 23 – 12:50-2:45: Halifu Osumare guest lecture (during Dance History)
- 26 – Dark Day – NO DANCE MAJOR CLASSES
- 27 or 29 – Bagels and Ballet, 10-11 AM (tentative)

MARCH

- 4 – Possible Dance Open Conversation, 6:30-8:00 in G6
- 5 – Step Africa @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm (alumnus Ariel Dykes is in the company!)
- 11-14 – ACDA in Brenau University, Gainesville, Georgia
- 9-17 – SPRING BREAK
- 19 – Adia Whitaker Master Class, 3:00pm G6
- 25 – UnShowing #3, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

APRIL

- 1 - All classes and rehearsals in G6 move to Constans Stage
- 7-10 – Spring Into Dance Spacing Rehearsals
- 11 – Crew Watch Spring Into Dance
- 12 – Spring Into Dance Tech #1
- 14-15 – Spring Into Dance final Tech rehearsals
- 16 & 17 – Spring Into Dance Dress Rehearsals
- 18-21 – Spring Into Dance
- 22- Dark Day – NO DANCE MAJOR CLASSES
- All classes and rehearsals resume in G6
- 23 – Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm
- 24 – Last Day of Classes

- Senior Circle, 12:10-12:30pm in G6 [TBD]
 - SoTD Convocation, 4-5pm in Black Box Theater
 - Final UnShowing/ BA Senior Project Symposium, 6:30-9:30pm in G6
- 29 - CRAs – Graduating Seniors – Times TBD (tentative)

Critical Response Appointments for Fall 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.**

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 updated SoTD Handbook <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414947/files/61524209?wrap=1>

Dance Area Attendance Policy—Studio Courses

As much as is safely possible] Students are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e. a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to “attend” all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor. Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time.

For classes that meet two times a week:

Students can take 2 absences with no penalty; no documentation is required for the first 2 absences as they are automatically excused. 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. Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor’s discretion and will be made available through virtual classes or online assignments.

- 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, 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)

To help organize accommodations, students should 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.

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.

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

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/>

General Information

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.