

DAA2104: BA CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 1.
SPRING 2024. 2 CREDIT COURSE.

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:

Adjunct Lecturer: *Daina Block*
Office Hours: Mondays 10:05-10:55am. Adjunct Landing Space
Email: me.block@ufl.edu

Day: MON/WED

Time: 8:30AM-10AM

Location: Constans Theater RM G-10

* Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class. Emailing through canvas is also an option. Indicate your name and class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

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

Lab Fees <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>

Canvas (e-learning): <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

***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 shifts. **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.**

Canvas: This course is set up on Canvas (e-learning). You will find additional information about assignments on Canvas. All students must have access to Canvas on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. Assignments will be due via Canvas submission, or otherwise informed by course instructor. Class announcements, course schedule and timeline will also be posted on Canvas. For help with Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Required Text: All required readings or video viewings will be posted to Canvas.

Required Performances: Dance Majors are required to see the SoTD Dance performance *Spring into Dance*, as well as the *BFA Showcase*. Proof of attendance is required. More details in the important dates sections.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 1 DAA2104 COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Experience in contemporary approaches to dance technique, readings, observations, and movement exploration.

Prerequisite: DAA 1000 or by audition.

This course offers a physical practice, movement study/explorations, and investigative assignments to frame an enriched contemporary dance practice. In-studio practice will attend to cultivating a supportive community atmosphere, technique progression, and dance repertory. Class will include dance elements of structured exercises, tasks, floor work, improvisation, and partnering. Additional movement study/explorations will frame the learner within a contemporary progressive artistic field to contextualize the body as a site for inquiry into contemporary dance practice.

This course of study is influenced by:

- Fields of performance, world contexts, and artists who have directly or indirectly informed or understandings of a bodyminded language.
- My training in dance genres: improvisation, contact improvisation, hip-hop, tap, and creative development intensives.
- Somatic practices such as the Alexander Technique and resources that speak of the lived body as a conscious contributor to my practice.

THINGS TO KNOW:

*Fridays are area-wide master classes with faculty and guest artists. Though they are not required for this class, I highly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities when you can. They will mostly take place in Studios G6.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Student will develop in-studio practice as a place for cultivating a supportive community atmosphere, technique progression, and repertory.
- Student will understand movement study/explorations as contextual and applicable to confidently engage in artistic contemporary dialogues.
- Student will have the ability to synthesize practice, readings, and observations using iterative modalities.
- Students will demonstrate kinesthetic attunement, performance qualities with confidence, clarity, and dynamic.
- Student will gain an understanding of anatomical/kinesiological language as it applies to movement practice and engage in the awareness of kinesthetic, proprioception, spatial, and alignment of the self and with others.

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

To facilitate the learners understanding I will:

- Facilitate time and space for the learner's bodymind to integrate experiences through improvisational or structured dance practice.
- Employ an iterative learning approach and pair modalities to contextualize a contemporary outlook for a contemporary practice.
- Encourage a sustainable and compassionate class community where students can take risks and make mistakes free from unneeded stress, judgment, or harsh criticism. (*Statement sourced from Associate Professor Elizabeth Johnson*).
- Make changes to course that honor access, equity, student experience, and student input. (*Statement sourced from Associate Professor Elizabeth Johnson*).

REQUIRED/RECOMMEND READING:

Other required articles, handouts, or videos are TBD and will be provided on course Canvas site.

VALUES:

I value an individual's abilities and contributions to that which the learning environment further offers and encourages discussions and interactions, further develops decision making confidence, and further presents a supportive platform for constructive thinking and critique.

DAA2104 COURSE POLICIES:

Dress Policy:

- Attire which is suitable for movement
- Hair needs to be out of the dancer's face
- No hats (unless specific to a choreographic study)
- No large jewelry, necklaces, earrings, & watches
- No chewing gum.

Studio Polices:

- No eating or drinking in the studio, besides water

- Please bring a water bottle to every class
- Personal belongings should be pushed to the sides and out of the usable dancing space
- **Silence your electronics including cell phones, apple watches, and other forms of technology completely before class begins, and refrain from using them during class time. If there is a reason you need to check your phone during class time, please communicate that with me.**

CONTENT WARNING:

In this course, we may cover content and materials that some might find difficult. It is important that in an artistic discipline course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW:

Your proficiency with the learning goals to the degree appropriate for this course will provide the primary basis for calculating your final letter grade. Your attendance record, daily class work, written assignments/reflections and overall progress will also contribute to your final grade.

1) PRACTICAL RUBRIC GRADING. TOTAL 40 POINTS.

You will be evaluated twice. Once at the midpoint and once at the end. A numerical system will be used to evaluate progress that associates with growth terms: EXCELLING, DEVELOPING, IMPROVING, NEEDS ATTENTION.

Artistry

- Student performance quality demonstrates confidence, with distinct clarity and dynamic range.
- Student demonstrates clear musical and rhythmic timing. Student understands and engages critically with performance context.

Embodiment

- Student integrates an intermediate level of anatomical/kinesiological approaches to the body and movement practice.
- Student understands and engages with a kinesthetic awareness: proprioception, spatial awareness, healthy alignment, and range of motion.
- Student uses basic vocabulary in musculoskeletal descriptors of self and others.
- Safely and accurately executes movement paying attention to detail.
- Student develops moderate strength, flexibility, and endurance.
- Student synthesizes practices of artistic fields to inform a contemporary body practice.

Communication

- Student demonstrates an ability to articulate ideas with clarity and critical thought.
- Student offers appropriate feedback and in return receives feedback to reflect upon process.
- Student is respectful in discussions and feedback despite difference of opinion.

Community Engagement

- Students' stewardship of the space upholds the guidelines in the handbook/syllabus.
- Student demonstrates commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmates.
- Student demonstrates active engagement in class show/demonstrate/lead. Student commits to individual and shared responsibility for class/group-based work.

2) ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION & ATTENDANCE. TOTAL 60 POINTS.

Written paper, journal entries, voice recording submission, video recording submission, and class attendance total 60 pts.

COURSE CALENDAR OVERVIEW: 60 POINTS

MODULE	DATES	OVERVIEW/ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE	GRADING
Module 1: Week 1-4	MON/WED JAN 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31.	Practical class participation. Written Paper responding to Shantel Ehrenberg's "A Kinesthetic Mode of Attention in Contemporary Dance Practice".	DUE SUNDAY FEB 4TH: END OF MODULE ASSIGNMENT Submit written paper 450-500w to Canvas.	10 points
Module 2: Week 5-7	MON/WED FEB 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21.	Practical class participation. Journal Entries.	DUE SUNDAY FEB 25TH: END OF MODULE ASSIGNMENT Submit all journal entries to Canvas	10 points
Module 3: Week 8-10	MON/WED FEB 26, 28, MAR 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20,	Practical class participation. Audio response to a contemporary dance choreographer's work.	DUE SUNDAY MAR 24TH: END OF MODULE ASSIGNMENT Submit audio recording to Canvas.	10 points
Module 4: Week 11-13	MON/WED MAR 25, 27 APRIL 1, 3, 8, 10,	Practical class participation. Solo Video.	DUE SUNDAY APRIL 14TH END OF MODULE ASSIGNMENT Submit video recording to canvas and re-submit your audio recording.	15 points
Week 14-15	MAR 15, 17, 22, 24.	Share Solos.		
ATTENDANCE/ PARTICIPATION				15 points
Total Points				60 points

**Class practical, assignments, and attendance combined make up total 100 points.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS/ NOT SUBMITTED ASSIGNMENTS

Due dates are assigned; however, you may encounter a delay in completing your work. Therefore,

- Email me BEFORE a deadline to communicate an assignment's delay and you will be granted a 48-hour extension.
- Further extensions will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Further extensions may be subject to a 0.5 deduction each day. Days include weekends.
- No communication regarding assignments BEFORE a deadline will incur a 0.5 point deduction each day after the deadline. Days include weekends.
- Non submittal of assignments will incur 0 point grade.

GRADE SCALE:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

A /100-94

A- /93-90

B+ /89-88

B /87-84

B- /83-80,

C+ /79-77

C /76-74

C- /73-70

D+ /69-67

D /66-64

D-/63-60

E, I, NG, S-U, WF /59-0

**Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

SPRING 2024 DANCE CALENDAR:

Jan 8 – 1st Day of classes, welcome back meeting @ 6:30pm, G6

Jan 9 – Spring into Dance Auditions from 6:30-9:30p, G6

Jan 15 – MLK Day, no classes

Jan 22 – Unshowing #1, 6:30-9:30pm

Jan 23 – Parsons Dance @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

Jan 26 – BFA Auditions

Jan 29 – Unshowing #2 6:30-9:30pm, G6

Feb 16 – Masterclass visit with Bharatanatyam artists (CAME)

- SoTD Town Hall, 10:45-12:15pm on Zoom

Feb 11-13 BFA Showcase Spacing rehearsal

Feb 14-16 BFA Showcase rehearsals

Feb 18-20 BFA Showcase Final Tech and Dress rehearsal

Feb 21-25 – BFA Showcase

Feb 23, 12:50-2:45: Halifu Osumare guest lecture (during Dance History)

Feb 26 – Dark Day

March 5 – Step Africa @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm (alumnus Ariel Dykes is in the company!)

March 11-14 - ACDA in Brenau University, Gainesville, Georgia

March 9-17 – SPRING BREAK

March 19 – Adia Whitaker Master Class, 3:00pm G6

March 25 – Unshowing #3, 6:30-9:30pm, G6

April 1 – All classes and rehearsals in G6 move to Constans Stage

April 7-10 – Spring into Dance Spacing rehearsal

April 11 – Crew watch Spring into Dance

April 12 – Spring into Dance Tech #1

April 14-15 – Spring into Dance Final Tech rehearsal

April 16 & 17 – Spring into Dance Dress rehearsals

April 18-21 – Spring into Dance

April 22- Dark Day. NO MAJOR CLASSES

April 23 – Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

April 24 – Last Day of Classes

Senior Circle, 12:10-12:30 in G6 [TBD]

SoTD Convocation, 4-5pm in Black Box Theater

Final Unshowing/BA Senior Project Symposium, 6:30-9:30pm in G6

April 29 – CRA's Graduating Seniors – times TBD.

SOTD COURSE POLICIES:

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: https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/90100/sotd_student_handbook_ay_2022-23.pdf

DANCE AREA ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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 penalty; no documentation is required for the first 3 absences as they are automatically excused.
- If the fourth absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the participation portion of your 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 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 for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion.

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.**

****Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time. Excessive lateness or leaving early will add up to an absence and could affect your grade.**

*****Event Attendance: You are required to attend UF Dance production *Spring into Dance*, and all area BFA *Showcase*. Proof of attendance is required, and you will receive a 2 point deduction from your participation**

grade for missed events. Should you have a conflict with any of the above mentioned, please speak to me about other options (attending another performance, etc).

DANCE TECHNIQUE CLASS MAKE-UP POLICY:

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence.
- **There are no makeup options for absences for which you have not communicated with the professor.**
- 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:
 - o Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
 - o 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, it must be the same technical level, or lower; student must request permission of that instructor.
 - o Two make-ups will be allowed if needed. In the UF Dance Program, three unexcused absences will reduce your grade one-letter grade (i.e., from B to C). Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers your grade by half letter grade (i.e., from C to C-). Five unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course. A student with medical documentation may apply to UF for Medical Withdrawal.

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. The protocol for accessing appointments is here: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414412/discussion_topics/2671475

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 UF dance 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.

CLASS OBSERVATION POLICY:

There might be a situation where you're not feeling well or injured but are well enough to come to class to observe. In general, ONE observation day is allowed. In case of unforeseen circumstances, observation days will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. If a student is observing the student is required to take notes and reflect on how observing is supporting your physical learning in class. Notes are to be turned in at the end of the class period.

UF POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

CURRENT UF GRADING POLICY:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-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.

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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

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.

ETIQUETTE/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/>

NOTE ON IN-CLASS RECORDING:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

UF 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 <https://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/>
- Dean of Students: <http://dso.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>

UF 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/>

*****If you have ANY questions about the syllabus don't hesitate to ask me at any time during the semester. I will do my best to answer your questions or direct you to the department/person who can best assist you.**