

CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES LEVEL 2

SPRING 2024

DAA 2105 Section 1215 (24904)
Tuesday/Thursday 3:00p – 4:30p
Location: G-10 in the McGuire Pavilion

INSTRUCTOR:

Meredith Farnum mfarnum@arts.ufl.edu *

*Email Policy: Preferred email correspondence through INBOX in CANVAS. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

Syllabi are posted at CFA website under: *Student & Parents*: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>
Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201608/all/theadanc.htm>

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

Office: Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion, Room T212

Office Hours: Hours are posted on faculty office doors
Hours for Meredith are Hours for Meredith are TBA or *email me to schedule an appointment.*

Office Phone: **Office Phone:** 352-294-0458 / SoTD Main Office: 352-273-5000

[College of the Arts \(COTA\) Information](#)

[School of Theatre and Dance \(SoTD\) Information](#)

Important Academic Dates:

Classes begin – January 8

No Classes – January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; March 9-17; Spring Break

Classes end – April 24

REQUIRED READING:

Articles and handouts posted in Canvas modules

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Experience in contemporary approaches to dance technique, readings, observations and movement exploration. (credits: 2)

Prerequisite: [DAA 2104](#) or Dance Major or minor.

STUDENT PROGRESSION IN CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES:

This information addresses the standards utilized by the dance area for assessing student progression through four levels of CDP. The program's approach to contemporary dance is in context to the UF BFA degree program, relying on traditional training standards along with the awareness of the stylistic and technical diversity of the UF dance program. Using the objectives stated in this syllabus, the dance program assesses student progress through CDP. Students are graded and considered for the next level according to their achievement

of the criteria as determined by their instructor. Due to the nature of both training and levels in the UF program, receiving the final grade of “A” does not ensure progression to the next level.

Please Note: Our work in the studios is designed to be challenging; physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Dance classes often involve touching. Physical contact may range from simple touch to correcting alignment. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If you have a related medical consideration or touch is uncomfortable or triggers trauma, please notify the instructor at the start of the semester via e-mail or personal meeting.

Course Objectives for Technique Courses

SOTD’s technique curriculum is designed to focus the intellectual and physical abilities of students—majors, minors, and non-majors—to embrace the demands of the 21st century artist. Each of the levels builds the required historical, aesthetic, and biomechanical foundations for graduating as a major in our dance degree programs. Likewise, the minor or non-major must recognize the classes as a pre-professional training ground by meeting the objectives at the appropriate level. When every student brings into every class their discipline and motivation, they will be ready to meet and greet the following goals common to each respective level of technique:

CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES 2 COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Develop continued attentiveness of alignment and placement while engaging in somatic and conditioning practices to enhance body/mind awareness.
- Acknowledge the related history to the aesthetic foundations of modern and post-modern that evolved into the ongoing exploration and discovery.
- To establish a consistency of daily studio practice as well as using contemporary class progression, improvisation, and variation to build a basis for developing your technique.
- To approach all training, practice, and performance from an anatomically knowledgeable and core connected standpoint, especially while challenging preconceptions and allowing potential to fuel growth as a mover.
- Build musical, rhythmic, phrasing, and spatial skills suitable to the contemporary technique.
- Initiate the process of connecting theory and technique to creative practice.
- Create an environment to test and improve the student’s kinesthetic awareness.
- To develop and practice absorbing new material efficiently and to perform combinations with attention to technical foundation and individual expression.
- Develop an appreciation of the theory, criticism, and aesthetic relating to contemporary dance practice.

DRESS POLICY:

- Comfortable movement attire – leggings, tanks, fitted t-shirts, etc. Nothing too baggy or anything that will hinder movement.

- Hair should be worn out of the face.
- Extra layers for warm-up and/or to stay warm
- No large jewelry, including all non-stud earrings, necklaces & watches.
- No chewing gum.

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE

For classes that meet three times a week – students who are required to attend the Friday Masterclass

- Students can take 3 absences with no documentation and 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 for unexcused absences is up to the instructor's discretion.

For classes that **meet two times a week**: for students who are NOT required to take the Friday Masterclass

- 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.

Communication is important.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for unexcused absences
- 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:

- 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
- 2) 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 in any genre; student must request permission of that instructor.

UF Absence Policy The requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Please click the following link for details: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Additional circumstances listed below in which course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

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

- 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 may conflict with class attendance this semester.

STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. The instructor is the only person that views your written comments. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

EVALUATION

Event attendance	20 points	See information below about Required Performance and Event Participation. (Assignment information is located on Canvas)
Midterm Assessment/Feedback	10 points	In Class with written or verbal feedback
Movement Study #1	15 points	Assignment details given in class and located on Canvas.
Discussion	10 points	Assignment details located on Canvas. Students will discuss reading provided on Canvas. Initial post (6 points) Peer response (4 points)

Movement Study #2	15 points	Assignment details given in class and located on Canvas.
Final Project	30 points	Culminating Presentation from movement studies. Can be either a solo work or a collaboration. April 24th

Instructions for assignments are located on Canvas

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

A	100-94%	A-	< 94 – 90%
B+	< 90-87%	B	< 87-84%
B-	< 84-80%	C+	< 80-77%
C	< 77-74%	C-	< 74-70%
D+	< 70-67%	D	< 67-64%
D-	< 64-61%	F	< 61-0%

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING HER/HIS OWN PROGRESS

*Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Any changes in technique exam dates due to unseen circumstances will be announced in class and posted on the dance board in a timely fashion.

Week 1	Introduction: review syllabus, icebreakers, Bartenieff Fundamentals and Mind-Body Centering - breath
Week 2	Continued somatic practice and warmup introduction – building on previous class - breath
Week 3	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – succession, opposition, suspension COURSE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES: (click here to see information below)
Week 4	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – succession, opposition, suspension
Week 5	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – succession, opposition, suspension. Movement Study #1 due 2/8
Week 6	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery. Midterm Evaluations in class. (BFA spacing and tech)
Week 7	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery (BFA tech, dress, show)
Week 8	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery Discussion Post Due 2/29
Week 9	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – weight/gravity, rebound, fall, recovery. Movement Study #2
Week 10	Spring Break
Week 11	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – isolation, initiation, intention

Week 12	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – isolation, initiation, intention
Week 13	Warmup, floor work, barre work, progressions – isolation, initiation, intention
Week 14	Warmup and work in class on Final Projects
Week 15	Warmup and work in class on Final Projects
Week 16	Final presentations. Due 04/24

COURSE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES:

The following Level Two guidelines follow the rubric created by Dance Area faculty:

- **Embodiment**

- KINESTHETIC AWARENESS: Students are able to integrate a moderate level of anatomical & kinesiological approaches to movement practice, including developing sense of proprioception, spatial awareness, healthful alignment, and range of motion.
- MOVEMENT EXECUTION: Students are able to safely and accurately execute movement of moderate complexity with attention on weight transfer.
- ENERGY & CONDITIONING: Students are able to utilize and develop a moderate level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and muscular stabilization and support, as well as energetic modulation.

- **Artistry**

- MUSICALITY & RHYTHM: Understands timing in movement and movement phrasing and demonstrates clarity of rhythmic patterning.
- PERFORMANCE QUALITY: Executes movement with confidence and demonstrate ability to explore dynamic range.

- **Communication**

- Student begins to cultivate clarity of personal voice and articulation of ideas..
- Ability to listen to themselves and others, with respect for differing opinions.

- **Citizenship**

- Takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus; demonstrate commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmates versus a select few as the course progresses.

- Takes care of the space as outlined in handbook/syllabus; demonstrate commitment to a collaborative learning environment by expanding one's willingness to work with all classmate versus a select few as the course progresses; active engagement physically, including volunteering to show/demonstrate/lead.

EVALUATIONS AND GRADING:

Midterm Feedback and Evaluation occur during the class. You will be observed by the instructor and perhaps other members of the dance faculty. Grades will be assigned based on the technical proficiencies listed above. For the BFA major, application of your technique work to concert/performance work will be factored into your technique grade.

GUIDING CONCEPTS

These following general concepts are applied to all areas of technical development and used by faculty to assess student progress:

"Self Awareness and Ensemble Skills

The student demonstrates an ability to retain an awareness of self while integrating their movement into spatial relationships with other persons and groups. The student should also demonstrate clarity in three-dimensional movements and an ability to sustain directionality in exercises and in phrases of substantial length.

Transitional Skills (Continuity of Flow)

Exercises should be performed with an understanding and dynamic use of different types of phrasing. Students should demonstrate an ability to sequence a variety of movements into an extended phrase: recognizing and moving through transitions and demonstrating follow-through of movement impulses as appropriate.

Performance Quality (Dynamic Awareness)

Each instructor will provide the class with specific movement and performance goals that delineate for the student: suitable use of energy, range of dynamics and movement qualities, the images or mind-set to evoke expressive and/or stylistic qualities and functional details

Required Performance and Event Participation

To help you to "think outside the box," you must venture outside the studio!

BFA/BA Majors: In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required to some of the following events plus 1 outside professional show. Your instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing which will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

Non-Majors: Required – *Dance 2023*, one program of the BFA Showcase, and one outside professional show. Your instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing that will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

Semester Calendar – Dates to Know

SPRING 24 DANCE CALENDAR

- Jan 8 – 1st Day of classes, welcome back meeting @ 6:30pm, G6
- Jan 9 – Spring into Dance Auditions from 6:30-9:30pm, G6
- Jan 15 – MLK Day, no classes
- Jan 22 – UnShowing #1, 6:30-9:30pm in G6
- Jan 23 – Parsons Dance @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm
- Jan 26 – BFA Auditions
- Jan 29 – UnShowing #2, 6:30-9:30pm in G6
- Feb. 16 – Masterclass visit with Bharatanatyam artists (CAME)
 - SoTD Town Hall, 10:45am-12:15 pm on Zoom
- Feb 11-13 – BFA Showcase Spacing rehearsals
- Feb 14-16 – BFA Showcase Tech rehearsals
- Feb 18-20 – BFA Showcase final Tech and Dress rehearsals
- Feb 21-25 – BFA Showcase
- Feb 23 – 12:50-2:45: Halifu Osumare guest lecture (during Dance History)
- Feb 26 – Dark Day – NO DANCE MAJOR CLASSES
- Feb 27 or 29 – Bagels and Ballet, 10-11 AM (tentative)
- March 5 – Step Africa @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm (alumnus Ariel Dykes is in the company!)
- March 11-14 – ACDA 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 in G6
- April 1 - All classes and rehearsals in G6 move to Constans Stage
- April 7-10 – Spring Into Dance Spacing Rehearsals
- April 11 – Crew Watch Spring Into Dance
- April 12 – Spring Into Dance Tech #1
- April 14-15 – Spring Into Dance final Tech rehearsals
- April 16 & 17 – Spring Into Dance Dress Rehearsals
- April 18-21 – Spring Into Dance
- April 22- Dark Day
 - All classes and rehearsals resume in G6
- April 23 – Ballet Tockadero de Monte Carlo @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm
- April 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

April 29 - CRAs – Graduating Seniors – Times TBD (tentative)

LIVE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE (with info. links)

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

Feb 10 – Dance Alive National Ballet, “Love in the Swamp” @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

Feb 21-25 – 2024 BFA Dance Showcase @ G6 Studio, McGuire Pavilion

March 5 – Step Afrika! @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

March 23 – Dance Alive National Ballet, “Giselle” @ Phillips Center, 2:00pm and 7:30 pm

March 29 – 30 – Elements of Style (Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall)

April 6 – Danscompany of Gainesville, “State of Wonder” @ Phillips Center, 1:00p and 7:00p

April 14 – 360 Allstars@ Phillips Center, 4:00pm

April 18-21 – Spring Into Dance (times TBA) @ G6 Studio, McGuire Pavilion

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



NOTE:

Dates/times subject to change – please check dance bulletin board and/or contact appropriate box office. You will receive a voucher (coupon) at the beginning of the semester for assigned SOTD productions with instructions of how to use it to get discount tickets. Viewing of SOTD plays is highly recommended, but not required. Non-majors, please verify event schedule with instructor, as you may not be required for attendance at all events.

Tickets will be available to reserve on the SoTD Events Page:

<http://arts.ufl.edu/academics/theatre-and-dance/current-season/>

UF Performing Arts (Phillips Center) #: (352) 392-2787 <http://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/>

SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181 <http://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/?section=calendar>

ALL BFA/BA Dance Majors are **required** to attend a CRA with dance faculty. Do not make travel plans at this time— grade points will be deducted.

It is your responsibility to know your schedule. Check your (UF) email, the dance studio bulletin boards, and Dance Area Headquarters Canvas page regularly.

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive,

therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/courses/distance/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

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 [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the Student Health Care Center website](#).
<https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy)

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) 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; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

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.

Library Support: 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.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

Dean of Students: Areas and Service

UF Online: One Stop