

DAA 3614: Dance Composition III

Spring 2024 | Section: 2614 | T / R 12:50 – 2:45p | CON G006

Instructor of Record: Alex Springer (pronouns he/him/his)
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Office Location: Room 232, McGuire Pavilion
Office Hours: T/R 3-4p or by appointment.
Office Phone: 352-273-0511

Syllabi can be found here <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>
Lab Fees can be located at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/material-and-supply-fees/>
Canvas (e-learning): <http://elearning.ufl.edu>
Email Policy: Use ONLY your UFL.EDU email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.

DAA 3614: COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Practice and study in choreography with focus on various compositional styles, both traditional and nontraditional.
 Credits: 2; Prereq: [DAA 2611](#) or instructor permission.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance Composition III builds upon your previous dancemaking experiences and invites you to further explore your personal artistic process. In this course, you will continue to gain skills for creating, directing, and composing performance experiences. We will be playful, messy, and deep in-process. We will make, destroy, improvise, investigate, collaborate, and generate. We will experiment with the boundaries of performance outside a formal concert dance structure. Through several choreography projects, ranging from solo to group works, you will deepen into your current creative inquiries and practice articulating your vision to others. We will iterate on projects and see the unexpected unfold from the unknown.

Feedback and dialogue are an imperative component of our work in the studio. We will analyze generously the work of our peers and always prioritize process over product. We will be provocateurs and illuminate possibilities for them rather than being a judgmental voice.

This coursework is greatly influenced by my work with choreographers Doug Varone, Jeanine Durning, Angie Hauser and Chris Aiken as well as my ongoing collaboration with Xan Burley.

Recommended Equipment: knee pads, water bottle, notebook, digital portal (laptop/phone).

Required Reading: TBA; all materials will be made available on Canvas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Cultivate a deeper understanding of your artistic voice and process.
- Develop, manipulate, and organize movement ideas into solo and/or group dances.
- Ability to direct – organizing and leading group rehearsals, communicate clearly about choreographic ideas and concepts.
- Comfortably articulate choreographic choices through embodiment, speaking, and writing.
- Practice witnessing and giving feedback to peers on their choreographic work.
- Knowledge to situate choreographic research in relationship to other artists’ works in the field.
- Comfort with the unknown.

“Not knowing is a permissive and rigorous willingness to trust, leaving knowing in suspension, trusting in possibility without result, regarding as possible all manner of response.”

– Ann Hamilton, *Making Not Knowing*

STUDIO PROCEDURES

RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

For us all to have a transformative, energetic, and generous experience, we will agree to *participate* in creating a respectful environment. We do so by:

- Showing up for yourself and others.
- Listening fully to each other at all times.
- Taking time to reflect before responding or reacting.
- Demonstrating personal motivation and lifting up those around us. Offer positive feedback to each other.
- Asking questions and contributing to class discussion.
- Collaborating equitably.
- Showing gratitude for community.
- **Communicate.** Please email me with *any and all* concerns, questions, and needs as they arise.
- **+ YOUR SUGGESTIONS!** We will create, discuss, and compile community agreements specific to our group. We enter this space with various experiences and perspectives, together seek to create the safest space possible to learn, thrive, and grow.



“Not causing harm requires staying awake. Part of being awake is slowing down enough to notice what we say and do.”

-Pema Chödrön

Proper Attire: You should come dressed ready for class and able to move freely and comfortably. Long pants are best and knee pads are highly suggested. It is recommended that you do not wear jewelry that will impede your ability to move or put you or others at physical risk.

Water + Food: Be sure to bring a water bottle to class. Make sure you eat a well-balanced meal or snack before and after class. Please do not eat while in class or chew gum.

Device Usage: The studio is a place for focus and engagement, a precious time to be screen-free. Please leave your cell phones, tablets, computers, iPads, etc. in your bags and on silent unless we are using them for classwork. If you need to be reachable by phone for any reason, let me know in advance of class.

Lateness and leaving early are also detriments to your progress. If you are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor accordingly before/after class. Chronic tardiness or early departure will require an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss strategies moving forward. See attendance policy below.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS + GRADING

Choreographic projects must be presented in class. All written work will be submitted to Canvas. I will communicate more specific requirements for each project prior to the deadline. See Course Schedule below for more details.

(1) ASSIGNMENTS + RESPONSES (40% or 400 points)

WORKBOOK (80 points) – You are expected to keep a workbook archiving and tracking your creative process. Please use a physical notebook and another digital archive (Google or One Drive Folder, or Instagram account for example) that best supports your practice. This will be a place to catalogue your embodied research this semester and you only need share with me. You are expected to have *some* writing, but other modalities (drawing, dancing, Pinterest board, playlists, image searches, etc) are welcome. You are encouraged to build a daily practice with workbook, but are only required to submit record of two “pages” every other week.

VIEWINGS – We will watch and analyze work by various artists. Some responses will be required in your workbook, other materials you are expected to view as they will support in-class projects and discussion.

PROCESSAYS (50 each x 3 = 150 points) – Choreographic projects #1-3 will be accompanied by a brief written assignment articulating your process, choices, and future imaginings of the work.

PROCESS PAPER (150 points)– In tandem with your final choreography process, you will write a Review of Literature + Methodology. The paper will undergo a revision process with my feedback and peer review.

PEER FEEDBACK (20 points) – For both parts of the final paper (Review of Literature + Method) you will be responsible for giving feedback to your peers on their writing.



(2) CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECTS (60% or 600 points)

#1 SOLO STUDY (100 points): Solo / 1-2 minutes

Propose a problem, research question, or interest to create a short solo.
Engage intentional choices for space/time/energy.

#2 WORLD BUILDING (100 points) Trio or Quartet / 3-4 minutes

Collaboratively built, site-responsive group work
Generate / respond to environment.

#3 REVISE + REVISION (100 points) – Dance film or live solo / 3-4 minutes

Iterating on material from your trio to make a completely new solo work.

#4 FINAL CHOREOGRAPHY (300 points) – Small group dance / 3-7 minutes

Small group work (duet/trio/quartet) directed from outside.
Created over the course of the semester within Collective structure.

EXTENSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Please do your best to submit work on time. I understand that there will be extenuating circumstances and ask that you contact me at least **24 hours in advance** of the due date to arrange for an extension. I respect you and your time and know that sometimes flexibility is needed to do your best work. Please respect me by honoring these timeframes which will allow me adequate time to review your work and give thorough individual feedback.

ATTENDANCE

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 third 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 other classes and/or 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.

Lateness and leaving early are also detriments to your progress. If you are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor accordingly before/after class. Chronic tardiness or early departure will require an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss strategies moving forward.

In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required at the following Dance performances. You will provide proof of attendance within one week after viewing the production. Failure to attend required events will negatively affect your grade by 2%.

- **Parsons Dance @ Philips Center**
- **BFA Showcase @ SoTD G-6**
- **StepAFRIKA @ Philips Center**
- **Spring into Dance @ SoTD G-6**
- **Ballet Trokadero @ Philips Center**

PERCENTAGES

Choreographic Projects	60%
Assignments + Responses	40%
TOTAL	100%

LETTER GRADES

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
F	Below 63

[Link to the university grades and grading policies](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1	Jan 9: Introduction/Syllabus	Jan 11: Space / Time / Energy
		Workbook due: Buy notebook & submit link for digital archive space
2	Jan 16: Viewing #1 discussion + guided solo study process time	Jan 18: #1 Solo Study showing
	Viewing #1: solos	
3	Jan 23	Jan 25: Viewing #2 discussion + World Building work time
	Viewing #2: Parsons Dance	Processay #1 due Workbook due: include response to Parsons
4	Jan 30	Feb 1
	Viewing #3: Site-Responsive	
5	Feb 6: #2 World Building showings	Feb 8
		Workbook due
6	Feb 13: Collective Showing #1	Feb 15: Collective Showing #1
	Processay #2 due	
7	Feb 20	Feb 22
	Viewing #4: Dance Film	Viewing #5: BFA Showcase (both showcases if possible) this weekend Workbook due
8	Feb 27: Viewing #4-5 discussion	Feb 29: work on Revise + Revision project
9	Mar 5: #3 Revise + Revision Showing	Mar 7: #3 Revise + Revision Showing
	Viewing #4: Step Afrika!	Workbook due: include response to Step Afrika!
10	SPRING	BREAK
11	Mar 19	Mar 21
	Processay #3 Revise + Revision	Workbook due
12	Mar 26	Mar 28
13	Apr 2: Collective Showing #2	Apr 4: Collective Showing #2
	Submit Draft of Methodology + Review of Literature	Workbook due
14	Apr 9	Apr 11
		Complete peer revisions
15	Apr 16	Apr 18: Collective Final Showings
		Workbook due Viewing #5: Spring into Dance
16	Apr 23: Collective Final Showings	WEDNESDAY Apr 24 @ 6:30p Final UnShowing
	Viewing #6: Les Ballets Trockadero	Final Methodology + Review of Literature due 4/29 by 11:59p

Spring 2024 Dance Calendar

Please check your emails daily for Dance Area Headquarters Canvas site updates!

Spring 2024 Dance Calendar

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

Jan 9 – Spring into Dance Auditions from 6:30-9:30pm, 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 7 - Los Munequitos de Matanzas and Grupo Afro-Cuba masterclass, 10:40-12:10 in G6

Feb 8 – Harn Museum Night – Vibrant Africa, 6:30pm

Feb 10 – [Dance Alive National Ballet, "Love in the Swamp"](#) @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

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 19 - 12:50-2:45: Halifu Osumare guest lecture (during Dance History)

- Coordinators Meeting 3-4pm

Feb 18-20 – BFA Showcase final Tech and Dress rehearsals

Feb 21-25 – [2024 BFA Dance Showcase](#) @ G6 Studio, McGuire Pavilion

Feb 26 – Dark Day – NO DANCE MAJOR CLASSES

Feb 27 or 29 – Bagels and Ballet, 10-11 AM (tentative)

March 5 – [Step Afrika!](#) @ Phillips Center, 7:30pm

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

March 9-17 – SPRING BREAK

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

March 20 – BA Spring Social/Info Session, TBA

March 23 – [Dance Alive National Ballet, "Giselle"](#) @ Phillips Center, 2:00pm and 7:30 pm

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

March 29 – 30 – [Elements of Style](#) (Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall) 7:30pm

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

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

April 7-10 – Spring Into Dance Spacing Rehearsals*

April 11 – Crew Watch Spring Into Dance*

April 12 – Spring Into Dance Tech #1*

April 14 – [360 Allstars](#)@ Phillips Center, 4:00pm

April 14-15 – Spring Into Dance final Tech rehearsals*

April 16 & 17 – Spring Into Dance Dress Rehearsals*

April 18-21 – Spring Into Dance* @ G6 Studio, McGuire Pavilion

April 22- Dark Day - All classes and rehearsals resume in G6

April 23 – [Les Ballet Trockadero 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

*See [Primary Production Calendar](#) for full production schedules

UF POLICIES

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 here.](#)

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) 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 or TAs in this class.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

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 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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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.](#)

HEALTH + WELLNESS RESOURCES

- *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](#).
- *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](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

CONTENT WARNING:

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in an artistic practice course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I will do my best to give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language or perspectives that some may find difficult, and 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.

****THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.