

# DAA 2680: FIRST YEAR DANCE ENSEMBLE | SPRING 2024

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Day:** M/W | **Time:** 12:50-2:45pm

**Place:** Constans Theater G-11

**Instructor:** Brianna Taylor

**Office Hours:** by appointment (3-4pm M/W, or on Zoom)

**Email:** [btaylor@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:btaylor@arts.ufl.edu)

**Email Policy:** Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class.

**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>

**Required Texts:** All required readings and video viewings will be posted to Canvas.

**Canvas:** This course is set up on Canvas (e-learning). All students must have access to Canvas on a regular basis to successfully complete the course. Assignments will be due via Canvas submission, as well as in person. 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](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

## COURSE INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTIONS

### FIRST YEAR DANCE ENSEMBLE COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Develops technical range and performance skills through the study and production of dance repertory.  
Credits: 1

### INSTRUCTOR COURSE DESCRIPTION AND INTRO:

Welcome! I am excited to dance with you and co-create a new performance work! 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. As is the case in many professional dance company settings, you are considered collaborators in this process. In other words, we will be working together to create a new original dance work. As collaborators, you are an integral part of the process, and your engagement, presence and willingness to explore/experiment is paramount. You will be expected to both learn choreography that I will offer you, while also generate material within this collaborative process. You can expect our weekly rehearsal process to include:

- a few moments for community check in and personal centering,
- collective practice in Brianna's movement aesthetic,
- learning and practicing choreography,
- improvisational offerings to inspire movement generation,
- possible theatrical components including speaking and interaction with props
- opportunities for collaboration, partnership, and critical inquiry to support the thematic material of our work (this might include writing, conversation, video viewing, etc)

This process culminates with the performance of a dance work in a UF Dance Program performance Spring Into Dance. We will work together to create a space that honors our community and collaboration,

celebrating the uniqueness each of us brings, supported by deep listening to self and others, physical rigor, focus, playfulness, and the desires of each of YOU as part of the learning + creative community.

### **CLASSROOM CULTURE OF CARE:**

I invite that we integrate a culture of care in this class (and beyond). For me dance holds so much possibility for connection and growth, as it provides a frame to hold the eclectic nature of our lived embodied experience, both in various styles of dance, and as a moving being in the world. I am interested in your lived embodied experience, as much as I'm excited to share with you mine. I am invested in creating a classroom culture where we learn from and with each other, hold each other with care, as well as with accountability to respect each other and the space we occupy. While we hold specific roles as teacher/student in this context, I'd like to consider myself always a student, recognizing I have as much to learn from you as you from me. Together we will create community agreements, where we all hold each other in mutual respect and accountability. I share some of my expectations here in this syllabus. I look forward to hearing about yours, and to co-creating our classroom community agreements and culture together.

### **COLLEGE OF THE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT**

This course aims to meet the call of the College of the Arts Mission Statement.

The University of Florida College of the Arts intends to be a transformative community, responding to and generating paradigmatic shifts in the arts and beyond. We do so by:

- Embracing the complexity of our evolving human experience and seeking to empower our students and faculty to shape that experience fearlessly through critical study, creative practice, and provocation.
- Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
- Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
- Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for equity on local and global levels.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

1. To expand the dancer's expressive and qualitative range of movement and Performance.
2. To develop musicality, dynamics, clarity and articulation in time and space.
3. To expose the student to fresh approaches to the creative process.
4. To provide the student with experiences that reinforce their discipline and strengthen their sense of responsibility within a pre-professional creative environment.
5. To relate the student's work in technique class to a rehearsal situation.
6. To gain experience and develop an understanding of how to work in an ensemble.
7. To empower the person/dancer/ thinker/choreographer in each student.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

As this course aims to offer you an experience reflected in the professional dance world, you are expected to participate professionally. Attendance does not always equal participation. Participation involves being present and fully engaged. The goal of class/rehearsal sessions is to challenge and support your development as a dance artist, co-create a learning community where individual experiences and voices are respected and supported, and where each person is a collaborator in advancing the learning and development of the whole group. Ways to be present, professional and participate fully include:

- Being prompt and on time to rehearsals, warming up, reviewing choreography, and being physically and mentally prepared to dance/co-create.
- Removing potential distractions, such as cell phones and other devices.
- Active listening and thoughtful contributions to discussions.
- Positive attitude and willingness to explore/experiment with new material and ideas.
- Attending to your peers/the community and offering relevant feedback and critical support as needed.
- Limited conversation – all conversations should be related to the actual rehearsal.
- 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.

At the college level, students are expected to take responsibility for behaving in a demeanor corresponding to the professional field. Specific responsibilities are aimed toward deepening individual and collective artistic development.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

We will adhere to the SoTD Dance Program attendance policy. **However, you are expected to treat this rehearsal process as preparation and practice for working as a professional in the field, where it is expected you attend all rehearsals.** Extreme exceptions, personal emergencies or any hint of sickness (fever, vomiting, COVID, flu, etc.) are subject to being excused (see attendance policy below). Try to notify me prior to rehearsal if possible so I can plan accordingly.

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins you are marked absent. It is your responsibility to check in with me to change your absence to a tardy. **Excessive lateness or leaving early will add up to an absence and will affect your grade.**
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD Student Handbook (can be accessed on SoTD website).
- **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.**

### SoTD ATTENDANCE POLICY:

***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 participation portion of your 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.**

### 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:** you are required to take notes on what you're witnessing, 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 (you may either give me hand written notes, or email digital notes).

## COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

**The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through:**

1. **Classwork and Participation (70 points):** Your active participation and engagement is expected and essential to your learning in this course, will make up the majority of your grade.
  - **CONTRACT:** Each student is required to sign a contract as a part of this grade. This contract is a commitment of time and an agreement of responsibility, and your grade is based on your ability to uphold the terms of the agreement in accordance with the quality of your conduct and performance during the semester. (Contract will be provided on Canvas, and will be due by Wednesday 1/10)
  - **Performance:** Performing in the *Spring into Dance 2024* concert is mandatory for this class including participating in tech and dress rehearsals. A detailed production schedule will be provided on Canvas (and see calendar below)
2. **Journals (20 points):** It is important for you to have a notebook or journal for documentation of your progress in the dance ensemble project and to jot down notes and feedback from the instructor. Bring your journal with you to every class. This is your personal book of which I may collect and offer feedback or suggestions. Use it as a diary, if you will, to connect your thoughts of the movement.
3. **Dance Concert Attendance Assignment (10 points):** Attend at least two dance concerts this semester. *Spring 24 BFA Showcase* is required AND choose one other performance presented at the University Performing Arts Center (see list below). **Attentive Observation and notes:** as you watch the performance, pay close attention to approaches, cultural contexts and artistic choices brought about in the work and compare it to your experience in class. Take notes in your journal and be prepared to discuss in class. Your notes will be your 'proof of attendance'. The objective is to understand the intricacies and complexities in art making. Avoid making judgement.

### GRADE SCALE

**Total: 100 percentage points**

A	93-100 points
A-	90-92
B+	86-89
B	83-85 points
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76 points
C-	70-72

- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66 points
- D- 60-62
- E 59 and below

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

## IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW/SPRING 2024 DANCE CALENDAR

*\*tentative and subject to change. Faculty meetings & retreats, Open Discussions, and CRA dates still to be determined.*

*\*\*a detailed course calendar with assignment due dates will be provided separately*

### **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)

## COURSE POLICIES

### DRESS POLICY:

- Attire which is suitable for movement
- Hair needs to be out of the dancer's face
- No large jewelry, necklaces & watches
- No chewing gum

### STUDIO POLICIES:

- 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 cell phones and notifications 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.**

\*\*Please note that while UF policy allows students to record classes to support your learning process, you may not post anything publicly without permission. You may not record, photograph or post any other students without their permission. 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.

### STUDENT INJURY AND ILLNESS POLICIES:

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](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.

**STUDENT ONLINE EVALUATION POLICY:** 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/>.

**A NOTE ON PHYSICAL TOUCH:** The nature of our work as dancers involves an intimate relationship with our bodies and sometimes the bodies of dancers around us. We will likely engage in some partnering work involving touch as points of initiation or weight sharing. In addition, although I mainly offer verbal feedback, there may be times when physical feedback is useful to aid with alignment or movement guidance. If you are uncomfortable with ANY of the above, please don't hesitate to talk with or email me so we can come up with a solution together.

**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.

**\*SYLLABUS NOTE/DISCLAIMER:** This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. The constitution of the class cohort, unforeseen events, and schedule changes may dictate shifts. Any amendment to the syllabus will be emailed to you, updated on Canvas, and be clearly stated and available.

## UF POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### **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.

### **NETIQUETTE/COMMUNICATION COURTESY:**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. An email is not a text message nor a DM. Please begin emails with a formal greeting and avoid unprofessional colloquialisms. For UF guidelines on "netiquette": <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

### **UF ABSENCE POLICIES:**

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.

### **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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/](http://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>

### **ACADEMIC RESOURCES:**

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu). Or go to <http://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 look forward to co-creating and learning together this semester!