

**DAA 3614: Dance Composition III**  
**Spring 2025**

**Tuesdays/Thursdays | 12:50 – 2:45 PM**

Final Exam: 4/28/2025 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Location: CON G006**

**Credits: 2**

**Prerequisite:** DAA 2611 or Instructor Permission

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**Instructor:** Onye Ozuzu

**Email:** oozuzu@ufl.edu

**Office Hours:** MW 9:30-10:30 Nadine Maguire Dance Pavilion Rm 206 and by appointment (in-person or Zoom)

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**Course Description:**

In this Dance Composition III course, I look forward to inviting you to delve rigorously into your current moment as a dance maker. Given your lived experience and your study of dance artistry (so far), you will craft some meaningful dances that crystallize what you are capable of as an art-maker and connect to your audiences. Rooted in procedure and experimentation, this course fosters the exploration of personal artistic voice while engaging with collaborative movement research. We will craft choreographic compositions that respond to our unique curiosities and the broader cultural context. Emphasis is placed on process design, collaboration, risk-taking, and the embodiment of ideas through dynamic physical inquiry

As the instructor/facilitator of this course, I will draw from my experiences making dances utilizing interdisciplinary practice, collaboration, and improvisation for and with communities in various contexts (community, gallery, stage, street, site...). Some information about my creative practices can be found on my [website, ozuzudances.com](http://www.ozuzudances.com)

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**Course Values and Mission:**

We honor the body as a site of knowledge, we honor one another as unique creative producers and collaborators, and through intentionally crafted practice, we will learn to:

- Embrace conceptual frameworks (space, time, energy, body, being, score, ritual etc) as fundamental mechanisms of dance composition.

- Cultivate process and interdisciplinary exploration in approaches to composing dances.
  - Engage in feedback exchanges with peers and community, fostering a collaborative environment.
  - Explore personal and collective cultural, historical, contemporary and futuristic positionality through movement and performance.
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### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Develop and apply choreographic principles to create original dance compositions.
  2. Experiment with traditional and nontraditional approaches to performance.
  3. Critically reflect on their creative processes through written and verbal articulation.
  4. Engage in collective inquiry, contributing to peer projects and receiving feedback constructively.
  5. Present a series of studies and at least one choreographic work that demonstrates growth and experimentation.
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### **Course Requirements:**

- Active participation in all class activities.
  - Completion of choreographic studies and journals documenting creative process.
  - Attendance and reflection on external dance performances.
  - Final choreographic project to be presented informally or publicly.
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### **Required Materials:**

- Movement attire that allows for full range of motion.
- Journal or notebook for creative research. (can be digital or analog)
- Access to digital platforms for sharing media and documentation.

## Spring 2025 Dance Composition III Semester Schedule

**\*\* Subject to change\*\***

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	Jan 14 - Course Introduction and Overview	Jan 16 – Discussion: Aesthetic. Assign Choreographic Study 1
Week 2	Jan 21 – In-Class Work on Study 1	Jan 23 - In-Class Work on Study 1
Week 3	Jan 28 - Choreographic Study 1 Showing	Jan 30 - Study 1 Showing
Week 4	Feb 4 – Discussion: Habit   Dream   Ritual Assign Choreographic Study 2	Feb 6 – In-Class Work on Study 2 <b>** GUEST INSTRUCTOR</b>
Week 5	Feb 11 – In-Class Work on Study 2 <b>**GUEST INSTRUCTOR</b>	Feb 13 - n-Class Work on Study 2 <b>** GUEST INSTRUCTOR</b>
Week 6	Feb 18 – Choreographic Study 2 Showing Dance Performance Review 1: Due <b>**GUEST INSTRUCTOR</b>	Feb 20 - Choreographic Study 2 Showing
Week 7	Feb 25 – Discussion: Legacy  Language   Lore Assign Choreographic Study 3	Feb 27 – In-Class Work on Study 3
Week 8	Mar 4 - In-Class Work on Study 3	Mar 6 – Choreographic Study 3 Showing
Week 9	Mar 11 – Choreographic Study 3 Showing	Mar 13 – Discussion: Impossible Puzzles   Choreographic Thinking

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
		Assign Choreographic Study 4
Week 10	Mar 18 & 20 - Spring Break (No Classes)	
Week 11	Mar 25- In-Class Work on Study 4	Mar 27 - In-Class Work on Study 4 Dance Performance Review 2 Due
Week 12	Apr 1-Choreographic Study 4 Showing	Apr 3- Choreographic Study 4 Showing Assign Choreographic Study 5 (online)
Week 13	Apr 8 – **Guest Instructor**	Apr 10– ** Guest Instructor**
Week 14	Apr 15- Discussion: Technology   Merch   Media	Apr 17-In-Class Work Study 5
Week 15	Apr 22 - Choreographic Study 5 Study Dance Performance Review 3 due	

Final Exam: Choreographic Study 5 Showing April 28 3-5pm

## Important Notes:

- Choreographic Study Showings: These are in-class presentations where students showcase their progress.
- Dance Performance Reviews: Students are required to attend designated performances (this list will be available in Canvas) and submit a written review by the specified due dates.

## Planned Choreographic Studies: ***\*\*subject to change and in no particular order\*\****

1. The Elements: students will create their own prompt based on a personal assessment of their work thus far relating to an array of "foundational" elements of dance composition (Space, Time, Energy, Body, Being, Score, etc.)
2. Performance Improvisation: students will work collaboratively to design a constellation of performance scores as the scaffold for a completely improvised group work.
3. Compositional Thinking: students will work to develop an "impossible puzzle" as a movement research process to develop performance material.
4. Trans-disciplinary Legacy: students will excavate a "compositional" process that they are deeply knowledgeable about (something in their personal habit/family legacy, or community ritual) and transpose that embodied knowledge into movement composition.
5. A.I. Study...*in development*

Please ensure to attend all classes, participate actively in showings, and submit performance reviews by the due dates. Attendance at the "Spring Into Dance" performances is mandatory for the third performance review.

For any questions or clarifications, feel free to reach out during office hours or via email.

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### **Grading Breakdown:**

- Participation and Attendance: 30%
  - Weekly Assignments and Choreographic Studies: 50%
  - Performance Reviews 20%
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### **Attendance Policy:**

- Students have 2 excused absences with no penalty; no documentation is required
- A third absence will require a meeting with the instructor and/or area faculty to assess the student's continued participation in the course. If the absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the final grade.
- All subsequent unexcused absences will each result in an additional 5% deduction from the final grade.

\*\*Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences are 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., field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)
- religious observances

*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 affect participation grades and may require an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss strategies moving forward.

In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required at a series of dance performances (this list will be provided on Canvas). 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%.

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## **UF POLICIES**

**Student Code of Conduct:** 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.

**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

### **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. 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 2 Revised: September 2024 GatorEvals, or

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

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### **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 education 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 an 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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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### **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 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.

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## **Spring 2025 Dance Calendar**

[Link to production calendar](#)

### **January**

13 – First day of classes

Welcome Back Meeting G-6, 6:30p

14 – Auditions for Prof. Onye Ozuzu’s new work for Spring Into Dance, 5-7p, G-6

20 – NO CLASSES, MLK DAY

21 – ACDA adjudication showing, 6:30p in G-6 (open to anyone)

24 – BFA auditions for UF regular admission—All day

30 – Ric Rose Alumni Award: Lecture with Guest Artist Juliana Azoubel 8:45-10:15a

31 – Ric Rose Alumni Award presentation 6:00 to 8:00p, G-6

### **February**

7 – BFA Dance Showcase Load In, G-6

19 & 21 – BFA Dance Showcase, Prog A 7:30p, G-6

20 & 22 – BFA Dance Showcase, Prog B 7:30p, G-6

23 – BFA Dance Showcase, Prog A 1:30p, Prog B 4:00p

### **March**

6-9 – ACDA Conference

15-23 – SPRING BREAK

### **April**

1 – Spring Into Dance spacing rehearsals begin

10-13 – Spring Into Dance performances

23 – Last day of classes