

## **DAA4110 Contemporary Dance Practices 4**

**Instructor:** Onye Ozuzu

**Email:** oozuzu@ufl.edu

**Meeting Times:** Monday & Wednesday | Period 4–5 (10:40 AM – 12:35 PM)

**Location:** CON G011

**Class Dates:** January 13, 2025 – April 23, 2025

### **Office Hours:**

Monday & Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Location: Nadine Maguire Dance Pavilion, Room 206

Additional meetings by appointment (in-person or Zoom).

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### **Course Description**

(From UF Website):

This course is a continuation of advanced-level contemporary dance techniques, focusing on refining movement vocabulary, exploring dynamic performance quality, and deepening physical awareness and artistry. Emphasis is placed on the integration of technique, musicality, and creative expression to develop versatile and self-aware dance artists.

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### **Personal Statement**

I teach a grounded, rhythmic, energy-cultivating technique, employing both floor work and upright forms that draw heavily from West African and African Diaspora dances, Chinese and Japanese martial arts, yoga, somatic practices, and Modern/Contemporary dance — not always in that order!

I have spent 27 years in modern/contemporary dance, 15 in subtle martial arts (Aikido and Qi Gong) and yoga, 15 in Salsa, 10 as an avid House/club dancer, 24 as a Djembe (West African) dancer. I was initiated to my path dancing in the works of Nia Love, trained in Viewpoints and improvisation with Barbara Dilley, been in the studio and the club and at the kitchen table with Rennie Harris, studied West African drumming in communities in Florida, Maryland, Colorado and in Senegal. I learned Bartineoff fundamentals with Jackie Villamil, and taught creative movement to elementary school children (the best improvisers on the planet). I have dedicated much of my work as a dance artist to cultivating space for diverse dance/movement forms to collaborate in my body.

I honor explorations that are detailed enough to recognize how things work in the body--- deeper than aesthetics. I am interested in finding the connections in the why and the how and where we dance from---inside ourselves, and in the contexts of the cultures that the dance forms we carry forward came from.

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### **Course Objectives**

1. Cultivate energy, build strength, deepen balance, expand movement vocabulary
  2. Move with rhythmic, physical, and spatial awareness, with an emphasis on dynamic alignment, ease, expressivity, and efficiency of movement.
  3. Explore dance technique training through both improvisation and the performance of crafted movement phrases.
  4. Engage the historical and cultural contexts, implications, and possibilities of the forms we study.
  5. Strengthen individual artistry through a symbiotic relationship between practice and performance, between technique and style.
  6. Document, discuss, and be accountable for one's own evolving capacities as a dancer.
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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:

- Have FUN, be at ease in your body, and encourage yourself and others.
- Approach challenges with resilience, curiosity, and respect for self and peers.
- Contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Emphasize process over perfection, valuing growth and inquiry as integral to artistic practice.
  - Let yourself do hard things, new things. Be ok with the process of learning when it includes mistakes, confusion, and some discomfort (within physically safe boundaries).

### **Schedule of Assignments and Assessments:**

Jan 13-19	Day One Snapshot
Jan 15	Self-Portrait / In- Class Journal Assignment
Feb 24	Self-Portrait / In-Class Journal Assignment
Mar 10	Mid-Term Assessment / Personal Energy Cultivation Series Assignment
April 14 & 16	Final Assessments and Personal Energy Cultivation Series Due

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### **Grades**

Participation (Attendance & Attentiveness)	25
Assignments Day One Snapshot (5) Self- Portrait 1 (5) Self -Portrait 2 (5) Personal Energy Cultivation Series (10)	25
Mid-Term Assessment	25
Final Assessment	25

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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