

DAA4685 Dance Ensemble Syllabus

Course Title: Dance Ensemble

Course Code: DAA4685

Credits: 1 credit

Semester: Spring 2025

Class Schedule: Tuesday, Thursday | Period 10-11 | 5:10 PM – 7:05 PM

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

Class Location: CON G006

Instructor: Onye Ozuzu

Contact Email: Oozuzu@ufl.edu

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

Course Description

This course engages students in an ensemble dance-making process, performance and production. The ensemble will work with Onye Ozuzu as artistic director on a new work, which will integrate choreographic and improvisational elements in an exploration of the sub-Saharan air-dust layer, and its metaphoric connections to the Americas. This work will function as a laboratory for an ongoing project [*Space Carcasses*](#), set to premiere in summer 2025. The work developed in this course will culminate in performances during the ***Spring Into Dance Faculty Concert April 10-13***.

Course Objectives

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

Class Expectations and Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and crucial for ensemble cohesion. Students are permitted up to 2 excused absences without penalty. Any additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade. Excused absences include documented illness, family emergencies, or university-sanctioned activities.

Tardiness and Participation

- Be punctual and prepared to engage physically and mentally in every class.
- Late arrivals beyond 5 minutes require prior notification and may result in a tardy mark. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.
- Active participation in all warm-ups, rehearsals, and discussions is required.

Professionalism

- Be present, respectful, collaborative and participate fully.
- Dress in movement-appropriate attire
- No cell phone use during rehearsals unless specified for rehearsal purposes.

Safety and Wellness

- Inform the instructor immediately of injuries or illnesses that may impact participation.
- General Information on Student Injury and Illness Policy:

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. 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.

Course Content and Structure

Rehearsals and Performance Process

This semester's work will include:

- Learning set choreography and engaging in improvisational practices.
- Researching thematic elements of the choreographic project, particularly the sub-Saharan air-dust phenomenon.
- Participating in technical, spacing, and dress rehearsals leading up to the Spring Into Dance performances.

Important Dates (refer to [production calendar](#) for complete list)

- **January 14:** Auditions for Spring Into Dance (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, G-6)
- **March 31 – April 9:** Spacing, technical, and dress rehearsals (evenings, G-6/Black Box Theatre)

- **April 10 – 13:** Spring Into Dance Performances (evening shows; Sunday matinee)
 - Additional rehearsals may be scheduled in consultation with the cast.
-

Grading Criteria

1. Attendance and Participation (50%)

Consistent attendance, punctuality, and active engagement in all rehearsals and performances.

2. Quality of Performance (30%)

Demonstration of technical proficiency, musicality, spatial clarity, and expressive range in performance.

3. Professional Conduct (20%)

Adherence to studio rules, rehearsal etiquette, and ensemble collaboration practices.

Studio Policies

- Arrive warmed up and ready to move.
 - Use rehearsal time efficiently by reviewing material and integrating feedback.
 - Maintain a clean and safe studio environment.
 - Hydrate and nourish appropriately before and after rehearsals.
-

Course Materials

- Dancewear suitable for floorwork. (lightweight long sleeves are nice)
 - Knee pads (recommended).
 - Notebook or digital device for note-taking during rehearsals (as approved by the instructor).
-

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/>.

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.

Campus Resources:

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.

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.

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