

## **BFA Senior Project Syllabus DAN 4959**

**Spring 2025**

**Instructor/Mentor:** Rujeko Dumbutshena

**Meetings:** Reach out to me via email to set up regular meeting times

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

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

**Office:** Constans, Room 231

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00am - 12:00pm

**Office Phone:** (352) 291-9123

**Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4774515279>

Meeting ID: 477 451 5279

### **BFA Senior Project Summary**

The dance program has provided the student with an exceptional and supportive opportunity experience that requires them to combine your skills as a choreographer, producer, and writer to achieve success; a culmination of the training you have received in the program that has prepared you for this capstone course. The focus of the Senior Project is the creative process and research behind an original dance that will be included in the fall showcase. The actual work should have a running time of no more than *eight-minutes and no less than four-minutes*. You work as a class to produce the showcase as you are working on your individual creative projects. You are required to articulate your creative research in a thesis-style paper.

### **Objectives of the Senior Project**

- You are provided with the opportunity to create an original dance
- You are provided with the opportunity to collaborate within a group of your artistic peers to produce a showcase of quality and substance
- You are provided with the opportunity to participate in the UnShowing process to receive feedback from the UF dance community
- You are provided with the opportunity to work with your faculty mentor(s) to help you explore the full potential of their choreographic voice
- You are provided with the opportunity to finalize and articulate your creative process through the paper

### **Casting Guidelines and Responsibilities**

- As a choreographer you should ensure that your dancers are only in a total of three (3) dances per concert (not program).
- It is the choreographer's responsibility to inform/remind their cast of all UnShowing times, tech times, call times, show times, load-in and strike responsibilities, as well as rules for attendance of warm-up, notes, etc.

- All performing members of your cast are required to be UF students and enrolled in an approved UF SoTD dance course. You can petition for non-enrolled dancers to join your cast in a timely manner.
- Choreographer should also be sure their cast has a clear calendar for the performance, as we will not make individual adjustments to the performance order or schedule.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>
Deductions only	Attendance	Director
20 points	Creative Leadership	Mentor
20 points	Production Assignment	Director and SP class
10 points	Showcase Overall	Director
50 points	Senior project thesis paper	Mentor
100 points	Total	Grades submitted by Mentor

### **Attendance**

Follow dance area attendance policy. Unexcused absences are deductions on the total amount of points the student receives. Be sure to attend all BFA Showcase meetings before and after UnShowings for BFA Showcase. Be sure to attend all production meetings and technical rehearsals.

### **Creative Leadership**

Points are given for the preparedness of the choreographer to implement their choreography, how well the concept was communicated to the dancers, and how well the choreographer guided their dance through the rehearsal process into performance. It can also reflect the quality of communication the choreographer had with their mentor.

### **Producing Assignment**

Each person will be assigned a role in producing their showcase. Even if you are working jointly with another senior, you are still responsible for the successful completion of the assignment related to the successful running of the show. Ultimately, everyone is responsible for getting the job done.

### **Assignments may include:**

- Costumes
- Technology Czar
- Tech Czar
- Poster/PR
- Program
- Lobby
- Props

### **Showcase Overall**

These are points given by the director for overall demeanor towards the fulfillment of the production through the beginning of the process through to strike. It can reflect the

preparedness of the choreographer through the production process, such as techs, costuming deadlines, sound deadlines, etc. It can also reflect one's communication skills, collaborative approach to producing, and general professionalism with your peers and faculty mentor(s).

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 86-89

B 83-85

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

E 59 and below

### Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper

The Senior Project paper is the final phase of your Senior Project choreographic project, the articulation of your creative research. It is expected that you will use the following format in the writing of your Senior Project paper.

#### RESEARCH PAPER REQUIRED FORMAT

NOTE: USE MLA STYLE GUIDELINES TO WRITE PAPER

A GREAT and EASY-TO-USE site for **MLA STYLE GUIDELINES**: <http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/>

#### **MLA Formatting and Style Guide**

This is a great online resource for MLA formatting:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> Please note for them that for the paper you will have additional requirements beyond MLA, including title page, acknowledgments, etc.

- **Title Page**, with title of paper, your name, date submitted, class name and number, and professor (no page number) See: <http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/how-to-cite-a-scholarly-project-mla/>
- **Dedication** (roman numeral ii)
- **Acknowledgements** (roman numeral iii)
- **Abstract** succinct overview of the paper (Write—or rewrite—*after* you have completed your paper) (roman numeral iv). An abstract summarizes the paper and is used by prospective readers to decide whether or not to read the entire text. Make it compelling and powerful reading (100-250 words maximum).
- **Table of Contents** (roman numeral v). Use exact title of section on left and 1<sup>st</sup> page number of the section on right: include page numbers for dedication, acknowledgments, abstract, and section headers (but do not cite page numbers for title page or Table of Contents).
- One-page **Introduction** to topic (start numeral 1)
  - *Problem and Purpose Statement: who or what are you proposing to discover, challenge, understand, illuminate. Purpose of paper and what you seek to achieve in this writing.*

- *Rationale: what is important about this exploration? What contribution does it make to the field of dance?*
  - *Personal Statement: Why is the subject important to you? Is there a personal connection to the subject; or a connection you would like to make?*
- Two-page **Discussion of the Literature** and other resources you researched (written, visual, media) - Demonstrate your knowledge of what has been done before related to this topic.
  - Two-page **Methodology** section describing the research process you undertook • Detail ideas and approaches showing WHAT you did.
- You may include HOW you made unique connections across (or unique use of) your selected “literature” (written, visual, media, etc.) and questions it prompted.
- Two-page **Outcomes, Reflections, and Future Directions** section, summarizing the most salient outcomes of your project and possible future directions of your research/project.
    - The critical findings, results, or conclusions of the research, including strengths and weaknesses.
    - What further questions do you have or what directions for research?
    - What are the *larger* implications of your findings?
  - Optional: Visual Resources
  - Works Cited in **MLA** (Note you will use simple in-text citations as per **MLA**; place extra explanatory notes in endnotes) (page numbers...)

(Depending on your approach to your creative research, as well as your GPA, it is possible that this Senior Project paper can be converted into a research paper that will put you in good stead for graduation with high or highest honors should your GPA warrant such recognition. Your Dance History paper could also be used. This usually requires adapting or reconfiguring a portion of your creative research into a focused research topic. Typically, the Senior Project paper, by itself, would not be acceptable for this level of consideration. High/Highest honors papers also require a faculty mentor, as well as a second reader.)

### Spring 2025 Paper Deadlines:

1. January 31 (Friday): Abstract and Introduction
2. February 28 (Friday): Bibliography and Discussion of Literature. This bibliography should include no less than 5 sources; at least one should be dance-related (a work choreographed by a professional choreographer, a scholarly article about a dance-related subject, etc.) and connected to your studio/library research.
3. March 14 (Friday): Methodology, Process and Conclusion.
4. March 28 (Friday): First Draft.
5. April 4 (Friday): Second Draft.
6. April 11 (Friday): Final Paper turned in electronic copy to mentor and Dance Coordinator.

*\*Advisor may discuss any alterations on deadlines with you due to extenuating circumstances. If there are changes to the final deadline, please contact your advisor*

### **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).
- 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 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.

### **STUDENT 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 [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.ua.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 via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **UF POLICIES:**

### **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.

## **COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## **ETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

## **GETTING HELP:**

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: (352) 392-HELP (352-392-4357) - select option 2, <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Please take advantage of these services: 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.
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## Academic Resources

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- Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
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- Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

## General Information

### 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 othe 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.

## **SPRING DANCE 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 – Master Class with Cirque Kalabanté, 11:15a, G-6

UFPA: Cirque Kalabanté, 7:30p, Phillips Center

22 – Possible ACDA adjudication showing, 6:30p in G-6 (open to all)

24 – BFA auditions for UF regular admission – all day G-6 and varied SoTD spaces

27 – UnShowing and ACDA adjudication for BFA Showcase choreographers only, 6:30-8:30p, G-6 30 – Ric

Rose Alumni Award: Lecture with Guest Artist Juliana Azoubel 8:45-10:15a, G-6

Ric Rose Alumni Award: Guest Masterclass with Juliana Azoubel during CAADDP classes, G-6 31 – Ric

Rose Alumni Award: Master Class with Guest Artist Juliana Azoubel 10:40-12:35a, G-6

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

### **February**

7 – *BFA Dance Showcase* Load In, G-6

SoTD Macbeth – opening night (runs through 16<sup>th</sup>)

8 – UFPA: Dance Alive, *Dangerous Liaisons*, 7:30p, Phillips Center 9-11 – *BFA Dance Showcase*, spacing rehearsals, G-6

11-13 – UFPA: Riverdance, 7:30p, Phillips Center

13 - Museum Nights: Arts Across Africa, Harn 6-9pm

12-14 & 16 – *BFA Dance Showcase*, Tech rehearsals G-6

17 (Prog A) & 19 (Prog B) – BFA Dance Dress rehearsals, 7:30-10:30p, G-6

19 & 21 – *BFA Dance Showcase*, Prog A 7:30-9:00p, G-6

21 – UFPA: Niyaz presents The Fourth Light Project, 7:30p, Phillips Center

20 & 22 – *BFA Dance Showcase*, Prog B 7:30-9:00p, G-6

23 – *BFA Dance Showcase*, Prog A 1:30-3:00p, Prog B 4:00-5:30pm, Strike 5:30-7:30p, G-6

UFPA: Sun Country Dance Theatre presents 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Youth Concert featuring *Hansel and Gretel*, 2:30p, Phillips Center

24 – DARK DAY for Dance Majors—no technique classes

### **March**

3 – BA Spring Social and Info Session

6-9 – American College Dance Association (ACDA), regional conference at College of Charleston, SC

7 – SoTD *The Importance of Being Earnest* – opening night (runs through 14<sup>th</sup>)

11 – UFPA: The Peking Acrobats, 7:30p, Phillips Center

15-23 – SPRING BREAK

31 – *Spring Into Dance* spacing rehearsals begin, 6:30-10:30p, Black Box Theatre

### **April**

1 – UFPA: *The Great Gatsby Ballet* by the World Ballet Company, 7p, Phillips Center

1-3 – *Spring Into Dance* spacing rehearsals continue, 6:30-10:30p, Black Box Theatre

4 – *Spring Into Dance* Crew Orientation and Watch, 6-9:30p

5 – *Harn Museum of Dance*, tech rehearsal 9a-noon, performance 1-3p



UFPA: Dance Alive, *Romeo and Juliet*, 7:30p, Phillips Center

6-7 – *Spring Into Dance* Tech rehearsals and production meeting/notes, 6:30-11p, Black Box Theatre 8-9

– *Spring Into Dance* Dress rehearsals and production meeting/notes, 7:30-11p, Black Box Theatre 10-13

– *Spring Into Dance* performances, 7:30p Th-Sat, 2p Sun, Black Box Theatre (Strike Sunday)

14 – DARK DAY for Dance majors—no technique classes

17-18 – SoTD Staged Reading *The Conference of the Birds*, 7:30p, Black Box Theatre

19 – UFPA: Limón Dance Company, 7:30p, Phillips Center

21 – FINAL UNSHOWING, 6:30p-8:30p, G-6, format TBD

23 – Last day of classes