

University of Florida School of Theater and Dance

DAN2930 First Year Seminar

Fall 2023

Friday 9:35 AM - 10:25 AM

Nadine McGuire-G11

Instructor: Rujeko Dumbutshena

Email: rdumbutshena@ufl.edu

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

Office: Constans, Room 231

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Office Phone: (352) 291- 294-9123

Communication: Do not hesitate to contact me. You may call or email. I prefer emails. I will reply within 24 hours. I am available during office hours or make an appointment. If that does not work for your schedule, please email, or text me and I will set up an in person, call, or zoom meeting.

LINKS:

Dance Headquarters: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/414947/modules#module_1363582

Course: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/488771>

All UF syllabi are subject to change. This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. During the semester, those plans may change to clarify the class learning opportunity and you are individually responsible to follow updates provided: your regular attendance ensures you will be up to date.

Catalog Description: This course provides first-year students with resources, information, and experiences to support and enrich their participation in dance in a university environment. Enrichment activities, discussions, and research opportunities explore resources and options for dance at UF.

Course Description: Welcome to UF! Dance in higher education is a challenging and rewarding experience that prepares students for a lifetime in the arts and beyond. This class teaches skills to support that endeavor. SoTD has a legacy of nurturing creativity, wellbeing, as well as critical thinking. Together we will navigate the many parts of your UF dance career. This course will leave you with the tools to prepare you to become the successful dancer you have dreamed of being. We will learn and discuss all the possibilities that a career in dance can offer in today's changing world.

Objectives for First Year Seminar:

- Explore the purpose and philosophy of dance at UF and in higher education in general.
- To offer tools for self-care, and maintaining a healthy body, heart, and mind.
- Discover and explore the potential roles of a dance major within academia and other environments.

- To redefine dance to reclaim all its infinite potentials
- Discover how learning leads to greater knowledge of how to pursue and succeed in a career in dance.
- Introduce the resources, behaviors, and skills necessary for successful learning in dance and beyond.
- To develop professionalism as a student and create systems for a successful experience at UF.
- To build the networking and community-building skills foundational to a successful career.

Required Texts and Materials:

- All required content will be posted on Canvas site or handed out in class
- A writing journal and pen

Course Policies:

Attendance: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND EACH FULL CLASS

Requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students can have two absences with no documentation, without penalty.

All undocumented absences are unexcused. Excused absences may include those related to illness/injury which are documented by a medical professional. Events related to family emergencies or professional obligations should be discussed with your instructor.

If the third absence is unexcused, it will result in 5% deduction from the 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 are up to the instructor's discretion. Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, 4 unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course. After five unexcused absences the student may not return to class and result in automatic failure of the course. For your safety and the focus of the class, you may not join class if it has already started. You are late and counted absent; with instructor permission, you may observe. If you should leave class early, 1 point is deducted from your grade. If unable to dance but still attend, with instructor permission, you may 'actively' observe for full class credit, onetime. You will submit a written/creative assignment as assigned by the instructor due at the end of class. UF approved religious days are excused and do not need to be made-up. (Travel time not included.) You are responsible for material covered during your absence.

Please remember that while UF policy allows students to record classes to support your learning process. You may not post recordings and photograph publicly without everyone's permission.

Participation:

Participation is essential to course success. Showing up is not just a physical act. Students are expected to engage in class discussion, contribute to and support each other's learning, complete assignments, and listen when others are speaking. The class will be at its best when we all show up for each other.

Reading List

- Curriculum and SOTD Handbook
- BFA/BA Dance Curriculum
- Undergraduate Research in Dance: A Guide for Students. By Lynnette Young Overby, Jenny Olin Shanahan, Gregory Young
- Stance For Dance. Issue 1 Spring/Summer 2023
- Dance Research Journal Issues
- The Feeling Wheel. Positive Psychology Practitioners Toolkit

Course Schedule

Friday	Topic	Preparation/Task
08/25	Meet and greet. Introduction to the course. Know your program. How to advocate for yourself. Study the SoTD Handbook & Semester Plans. Dance Area Canvas. First week reflections.	Student Handbook Fall 2023 Dance Calendar BFA Semester Plan Track
09/01	UF Decolonizing dance curriculum. Auditions, Petitions and Productions. Creating smart systems. Artist's overextending.	Journal 1 - Due 9/04
09/08	Self-Care. Health maintenance. Library West Scavenger Hunt and check out a dance book or two.	Journal 2 - Due 9/11
09/15	Meeting with Librarian Jacob Mauldwin in Fine Arts and Architecture Library	Journal 3 - Due 9/18
09/22	Dance in Academia. Introduction to creative research and how dance intersects with other disciplines. Senior projects expectations. Discuss Dance research presentations.	Dance Research Journal & Stance For Dance readings – 9/22
09/29	Discussion and Reflection on weekly wellness. Nutrient, Hydration, Rest and Sleep.	Read The Feeling Wheel. Journal 4 – Due 10/02
10/06	10/06 - HOMECOMING	No Class
10/13	Service: Volunteer and be available to support YDW. Student Organization DIAS and DSC information	Research ideas and reflections – 10/13
10/20	Read articles from “Undergraduate Research in Dance” and organize research ideas.	Two-minute Research Presentation

10/27 - YDW no class	Young Dancer's Workshop	No Class
11/03	Work on Dance Festival/Intensive Research and learn what the steps are to getting there. Present findings and create a list of Summer Festival and Intensives, Trainings and Showcases.	Group Research and Discussion: Dance Festivals/Intensives etc
11/10 - No class	Veterans Day	No class
11/17	Reflection on your first semester. Last day to meet!	Final Reflection Journal
11/24 - No Class	Thanksgiving	No class
12/01 - Agbedidi	NO CLASS: Last Day of Classes	

Fall 23 Dance Calendar

August

23 – Classes begin
23 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm in G-6 - Welcome Meeting
25 – 1:00pm – 2:30pm – Dance Area Meeting
28 – 6:00- 7:30 pm G-6 Agbedidi 2023 Auditions
31 – 4:00-5:00 pm SoTD Convocation (location TBD)
TBD BFA choreographer audition

September

14 – 12:50 – 2:20 pm G-6 – Chad Gaspard Lecture/Dance Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
15 – 10:40 – 12:25 pm G-6 – Chad Gaspard Friday Master Class (Ric Rose Alumni Award)
15 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm G-6 – Ric Rose Award Presentation and reception

October

6 – Homecoming (no classes)
12 – Harn Museum Nights, focus on Indigenous Culture & Art
13 – 1:00pm – 4:00pm – Dance Area Retreat (curriculum: AI in dance curriculum modification)
15 – 7:30pm Nobuntu @ UFPA
20 – 9am – 4:30pm – BFA Program Auditions
23 – 6:30 8:30pm Unshowing #1 (tentative)
26 – 8:00pm - Limon Dance Company at Santa Fe College
27 – Young Dancer Workshop classes @ UF 9a-4p & 7:30p Showcase A at Santa Fe College
27 – 1:00pm – 2:30pm – Dance Coordinators Meeting
27 – 7:30pm DANB - *Swan Lake* @ UFPA
28 – Young Dancer Workshop classes @ UF 9a-4p & 7:30p Showcase B at Santa Fe College
30 - 6:30 8:30pm Unshowing #2 (tentative)

November

1 – 7:30pm Ndlovu Youth Choir @ UFPA

10 – Veterans Day (no classes)
13 – 17 – CRAs (1st Years, 3rd Years and 1st Semester Transfers) (Tentative)

December

1 – 7:30pm – AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
2 – 7:30pm AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
3 – 2pm – AGBEDIDI Concert, G-6
6 – CLASSES END
7-8 – Reading Days
11 – CRA – Graduating Senior (Tentative)
9-15 – FINAL EXAMS

Evaluation and Due Dates:

- Participation (55 points)
- Journal (20 points 5 x4)
- Group Presentation: Dance Festivals (5 points)
- Presentation: Dance Research (10 points)
- Final Reflection Journal: (10points)
- **Total (100)**

Participation - 55 points: Students are expected to attend classes and follow course attendance policies. Contact the instructor via email about classes you know you will miss or whenever you unexpectedly cannot attend or participate fully.

Journal Entries - 20 points: Students are expected to write journal responses. Track and reflect on your experiences on a weekly basis and submit entries on Mondays. **Due Mondays 9/4, 9/11, 9/18 & 10/4.**

Dance Research Presentation – 10 points: You start to explore possible topics and interests around dance research. Gather what you have learned from the semester and highlight a research topic that inspires you. **Due October 20.**

Group Presentation - 5 points: Gather information from mentors, students and faculty about summer dance festivals and intensives. You will work in groups to prepare a presentation on your findings. **Due November 3.**

Final Reflection Journal - 10 points: Students are expected to write a final reflection journal entry (300 words) on their experiences this semester. Discuss what stood out to you, and what information about dance at UF and beyond was important to you. Write about how you felt you handled this semester. **Due November 17.**

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 points

A- 90-93

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

The Disability Resource Center:

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 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/>

UF Computing Helpdesk:

ALL technical issues are to be resolved by you directly with UF computer Helpdesk which is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- (352) 392-HELP (4357) – select option 2
- helpdesk@ufl.edu (email this address)

UF Computing Helpdesk Walk-In (HUB, 132) hours: Mon - Thurs: 7:30 am - 10:00 pm; Friday: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm; Weekends: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

UF Polices:

UF GRADES AND GRADING POLICY

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

UF students are obliged to abide by the university's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and overall academic conduct. The Honor Pledge 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." The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

GETTING HELP

For help with Canvas, contact the UF Help Desk! # <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

(352) 392-HELP (4357)

Walk-in: HUB 132

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit 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/ 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 shcc.ufl.edu/

- *University Police Department*: Visit 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; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

- *COVID-19 Precautions*: SoTD chooses to prioritize the health and safety of our community. Sanitizing supplies are available in classrooms and hand sanitizing stations are situated throughout our building. Any students who are absent from class for reasons related to illness, inclusive of COVID, should not attend classes, rehearsals, or performances. If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at (352) 392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested

positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- *UF Computing Help Desk* at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.
- *Library Support*: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
receive assistance on how to best use the libraries and/or find resources.

- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- *Student Honor Code*: [https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code- %20student-conduct-code/](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-%20student-conduct-code/)
- *Dropping and Withdrawal* <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/drops.aspx#withdraw>