

DANCE COMPOSITION II SPRING 2017

Day: T/TH

Time: 12:50 – 2:20 PM

Place: McGuire Pavilion, G-6

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Johnson

ejohnson@arts.ufl.edu

Office: Room 234, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: M/W: 1-3 PM with appointment request, F by appointment only

Office Phone: 352-273-0522

*Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account for e-mail correspondence related to class. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

Syllabi are posted at CFA website under: *Student & Parents*: <http://arts.ufl.edu/syllabi/>

Lab Fees can be located at: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201608/all/theadanc.htm>

READINGS:

Provided digitally by instructor: thoughts from these works will underlie continuing assignments as well as the final writing assignment (Rilke)

Excerpt: *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne LaMott

http://engl210-picetti.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/Lamott_Bird+by+Bird.pdf

1st Letter from *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke

<http://www.carrothers.com/rilke1.htm>

DANCE COMPOSITION 2 / DAA 2611 COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Credits: 2; Prereq: DAA 2610 or instructor permission.

Practice and study of basic compositional crafting, emphasizing solo and small group works.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Understanding the myriad of elements used in composition (Dance and beyond) is an indispensable step in the full development and sophistication of a modern/contemporary dancer. Dance Composition 2 is a course where you will continue to build choreographic skill, learn more about movement invention, and utilize specific compositional tools to build your “arsenal.” Many times we will work with and through improvisation, develop simple choreographic exercises, and begin to explore your personal “process” so that you can begin to find your own artistic voice and tendencies. This class is also about teaching you to observe and describe what you see so you can give non-reactive, intelligent, articulate, and compassionate choreographic feedback to your classmates. By the end of the semester, you should be able to understand more clearly where you stand as a creative artist and be able to demonstrate through your choreographic choices a specific **point of view**. Most studies in this class will be solo work.

Goals

1. Understanding and exploring what is meant by “process.”
2. Understanding about movement invention.
3. Being able to orient yourself amid various choreographic styles and tools.
4. Being able to give coherent, constructive, and clear feedback to your fellow classmates.

COURSE CONTENT:

The purpose of this course is to further the discipline of choreography as an artistic process and as a life experience, encouraging growth and success within the creative process. This course continues to explore fundamental principles of the dance-making process and to guide opportunities for students to develop fluency and confidence in generating choreographic material and investigating, inventing, discovering and applying tools of composition. This is an exploratory class, emphasizing in-class participation and collaboration, journaling, observation, and group dialogue/discussion.

COURSE PURPOSE:

To refine choreographic skills in the areas of

- Motivation/Inspiration for making work
- Improvisation within clear choreographic parameters
- Abstraction – degrees of abstraction possible
- Editing – through editing movement journals and choreographic assignments
- Accompaniment (music/text/silence/visual media)

to support clear and unique-to-each-individual choreographic intent.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Create a cohesive approach to a choreographic work
- Identify and use elements of choreographic processes
- Critically evaluate viewed dance
- Formulate and apply critical feedback
- Articulate a personal sense of choreographic purpose or point of view

ASSESSMENT OF EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through:

1. Participation, investment and co-creation of class community: 10%

Your grade will be weighted heavily on how you interact with your classmates and engage with course material. Your commitment to choreographic projects/collaboration and giving and receiving feedback are crucial to your grade. Absences will affect this percentage **strongly**.

2. Ongoing Assignments: 20%

-- A choreographic journal: You will choreograph 5 seconds a day (**every day**). At five seconds a day, you should have about 3-4 minutes of work by midterm. You will show your "journal" to the class fairly often. You will also write brief feedback for everyone else's journals. At mid-term, we will exchange feedback in a digital forum, **which will be your mid-term exam**. Sections of your movement journal may be used in for a final showing or may be later manipulated for future assignments. **10%**

-- You will keep a written or digital journal on the topics discussed in class, the feedback on your work, thoughts you might have about the class, and new ideas for work. You may use any and all forms of communication from free/stream of consciousness writing, to drawings/doodling, to

poetry, etc. I will collect the notebooks at mid-term on **Thursday February 16th** as well as the end of the semester on **Thursday April 13**. The notebooks are useful to me in assessing your capacity to relate to your own work. **10%**

-- We will keep a video journal of every assignment we show in class. I will record and download all class work to an online source to be determined. Please make sure you have access to a computer on which you are able to easily watch visual media.

3. Written Assignments: 25%

-- You will write one 3 page critical analysis of a professional Dance performance paying specific attention to choreographic processes. **7.5%**

-- You will write 2 "lower stakes" critical/choreographic responses to the required concerts in a separate Discussion forum. **7.5%**

-- Your Final paper will be an assignment with a partner that will entail embodied choreographic teaching and collaboration as well as a written assessment of that process. **10%**

4. Production attendance: 10%

In order to know how to make dances, you must/should see everything available to you—not just what you like. In order to avoid cliché and "what has been done before," you must know as much as possible what is out there. Most likely, any good idea you have has been thought of before and made into a dance of some kind—a masterwork, a relatively good dance, or perhaps an awful one. It is in your best interests to know the difference. Attendance at these performances are not negotiable--arrange to take off of work, reschedule, build your schedule around these performances, and purchase tickets in a timely manner. As there is no required text, this is your course expense and you get **really good deals** as a UF student. We will look at schedule conflicts on a case by case basis.

REQUIRED DANCE COMPOSITION 2 PERFORMANCES: you must attend a total of 3 professional performances as well as Dance 2017.

- **Twyla Tharp** February 10, UFPA, 7:30 **Non-negotiable REQUIRED PERFORMANCE**
- **Dance 2017 (Rounding the Corner)** Constans Theatre, Feb. 23-25, 28-March 2 (in or attend)
- **Momix: Opus Cactus** March 29, UFPA 7:30 – **if not in BFA Showcase**
- **Step Afrika** April 7, UFPA, 7:30 **Non-negotiable REQUIRED PERFORMANCE**

Alternatives for varied conflicts:

- **Pippin** February 19, UFPA 2 and 7:30 PM
- **Riverdance** January 17-19, UFPA, 7:30
- **Shen Yun** January 24-25, UFPA, 7:30

Other Dance Productions – not required for Comp 2 but may be used as extra credit in a pinch (subject to change)

Elements of Style: Dance Theatre of Santa Fe's annual concert featuring Faculty and Guest Artist work. January 12th, 7:30pm. January 13th, 2pm and 7:30pm. SFC Fine Arts Hall.

<http://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts>

Dance Alive! - Robin Hood! February 3/4, UFPA, 7:30/2:00

Dance Alive! - Firebird March 17, UFPA, 7:30

BFA Spring Dance Showcase G-6, March 29-April 2

Possible: Splendor: Feb 26

SoTD Plays/Musical:

Divine (SoTD play) Opens January 27

William's One Acts (SoTD play) Opens March 17

King Lear (SoTD play) Opens April 7

UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653

UF Performing Arts (Phillips Center) #: (352) 392-2787

SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181

The (McGuire) University Box Office will open 45 minutes prior to the opening of each Constans Theatre or McGuire Black Box production.

5. Compositional studies, assignments, and performances: 35%

- Theme and Variation Study
- Angles, Curves, and Atom Smash
- Text assignment
- Music choices
- Spatial pathways and Confined Space/Site Specific Exploration
- Art Movement assignment
- **Tentative: last UnShowing for favorite assignments**

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR GRADING:

1. Capacity and willingness for *awareness and intimacy* concerning your own mind and work. This implies the ability to work with uncomfortable tasks, to stay with difficult sensations, even at the risk of losing face/"failing" or sometimes feeling foolish.
2. Interest in fully applying the tools of choreography in relationship to your own point of view.
3. Work habits: focus, respecting the space and other participants, attitude, attendance, consistency of effort, timely completion of all choreographic assignments.
4. Ability to apply same creativity, focus, and above criteria to written work.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:

1. Compositional Assignments	35%
2. Production attendance	10%
3. Movement Journal/Midterm	10%
4. Critical Analysis	7.5%
5. Production Attendance/Blog	7.5%
6. Journal/Weekly Discussion	10%
7. Final: Partner Process and Paper	10%
8. Participation and investment	10%

**values subject to change

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTENDANCE:

UnShowings

January 23, 2017 - First UnShowing

January 30, 2017 - Second UnShowing - This UnShowing will be geared towards CRP with Liz Lerman

February 13, 2017- Third UnShowing

March 13, 2017- Adjudication #1

March 20, 2017-Adjudication #2

April 10, 2017 -Final UnShowing

BFA Dance Auditions

January 27, 2017

Juries (All BFA Majors, BA Seniors): April 20 & 21, 2016 – know your schedule and plan accordingly

DANCE COMPOSITION 2 ABSENCE POLICY:

Since the course meets 2 times per week, I will give you 2 excused absences for the semester. These include time for minor emergencies, “mental health” or rest days, and undiagnosed/non-emergency sicknesses. Absences beyond these two will affect your grade *profoundly*. Each absence beyond the 2 excused will be considered on a case-by-case basis. I will not be unreasonable and I understand personal emergencies, unexpected illness, and injury. You must e-mail me immediately concerning such. **If you are injured, you are still required to attend class and participate in any way you are able.** If you are absent, you are responsible for taking the initiative to catch up with your assignments and **must be prepared to show work on assigned due dates.** Constant tardiness will also impact your grade negatively.

GRADING SCALE:

Total: 100 points

A	93-100 points
A-	90-92
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

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

COURSE POLICIES:

SOTD DANCE ATTENDANCE:

UF Absence Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, as follows:

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

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

- You cannot participate in classes unless you are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
- If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however.
- The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

In the UF Dance Program, three unexcused absences will reduce your grade one-letter grade (i.e., from B to C). Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers your grade by half letter grade (i.e., from C to C-). After five unexcused absences the student may not return to class and result in automatic failure of the course. A student with medical documentation may apply to UF for Medical Withdrawal.

Please consult the following sites for UF's physical and mental health resources:

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/> (Student Health Care Center)

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/> (excuse note policy)

<http://dso.ufl.edu/> (Dean of Students)

STUDENT ON-LINE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. The instructor is the only person that views your written comments. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) 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: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> - 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 (source: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-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 in this class.

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.

NETIQUETTE: 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 - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

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 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.

If involved in a SoTD produced production (with or without credit), there is required attendance at the production's Strike (as stated in the current SoTD Production Handbook):

Strike

- Strike is the restoring of the stage to its original condition. This mainly consists of the breakdown of technical components of the production.
- Strike typically takes place immediately following the final performance of the production.
- Strike is run by the Technical Director or Scenic Studio Supervisor.
- Safety is of the utmost importance! Proper footwear and clothing must be worn. Additional Safety Equipment may be required depending on the task.
- The Strike requires the presence of all undergraduate performers involved in the show and crew, Props Master, Master Electrician, and Technical Director or Scenic Studio Supervisor.
- Only the Technical Director, Master Electrician and Costume Supervisor can release anyone from Strike.
- Additionally, all cast members and crew must sign out with the Stage Manager.
- All undergraduate students involved in the production are REQUIRED to attend.
- Graduate Actors are released after 1 hour of participation at Strike due to their GTA responsibilities. Grad Actors must sign out with the Stage Manager before leaving.
- Only the Technical Director may approve an absence from Strike. Under extenuating circumstances may a student be "excused" from or permitted to leave early from Strike. If the student is "excused" from a REQUIRED strike or leaves early from Strike, the Strike must be "made up" by one of the 3 following options:
 - The student must participate in two Strikes within the current academic semester.
 - **--or--**
 - The student must participate in one strike and serve 6 hours in the shop within the current academic semester.
 - **--or--**
 - The student must serve 12 hours in the shop within the current academic semester.
- If a student does not adhere to the above penalties for missing Strike or leaving early from Strike, or if the student misses or leaves Strike early without approval of the Technical Director the student will be:
 - Ineligible for Theatre and Dance Scholarships.
 - Ineligible to be cast in School of Theatre and Dance productions for the upcoming semester.
 - Ineligible to register for classes.
 - If enrolled in any section of P&P the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in Senior Project the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in Dancers for Choreographers or Dance Ensemble the student's grade will be lowered.
 - If enrolled in West African Dance or World Dance (*Agbedidi*) the student's grade will be lowered.