

# DANCE COMPOSITION 1

DAA 2610 / 2 CREDITS

Monday /Wednesday 12:50 – 2:20pm

McGuire G-6

## INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:

Trent Williams, Jr [trentw@ufl.edu](mailto:trentw@ufl.edu)\*

\*Email Policy: Use ONLY your [UFL.EDU](mailto:UFL.EDU) email account for e-mail correspondence related to class: your name & class must appear in the subject line of all correspondence.

Office: Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: Hours posted on faculty office door

Office Phone: 352-273-0516 Main Office

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Working both individually and communally, we will learn and practice:

- To explore the many different vocabularies and processes in which to generate movement and structure choreographic material.
- To create an atmosphere open and encouraging for students to tap into their creativity/individuality, to speak / explore with freedom and to take risks.
- To recognize the limitless potential that dance making has as a life-enriching form.
- Deepen insight and understanding of music.
- Develop analytical and critical perception and skills in choreographic processes.
- Identify aesthetics issues in choreographic process and repertory and in various genres of art making.

## DRESS POLICY:

Attire in class should be neat, clean and allow for clear execution and observation of alignment and movement. Hair should be secured to allow for full and vigorous moving. Please do not wear watches or jewelry that might be harmful or inhibit movement.

## COURSE POLICIES:

### ATTENDANCE:

#### Dance Composition Class Attendance Guide:

- Mindful participation in each class meeting is the only way to meet the objectives of this course.
- Attendance, which is mandatory, means that when you enter the classroom, you are present, alert, and contributing to the progress of the class every second.
- If you are not present when attendance is taken or class begins you are marked absent.
- In the case of extended health issues, refer to the Injury and Illness Policy in the SoTD 2014-15 Handbook (SoTD website) and included in this syllabus.

### Dance Composition Class Absence Policy

- Five (5) or more absences (excused or unexcused) result in automatic failure.
- All undocumented absences are unexcused: each unexcused absence = 5 point deduction. 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. (See Make-up Policy for more information on excused absences.)
- 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, 3 points are 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 complete an 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.
- A MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL will not be supported without approved documentation. An Incomplete is only considered by UF Dance in extreme cases and is not available in technique classes.

### MAKE-UP POLICY:

#### Dance Technique Class – Makeup Policy

- You are responsible for all material covered during any absence
- There are no makeup options for unexcused absences
- Absences from Written Exams, Quizzes, Mid-Terms, and/or Finals may only be made up with approved documentation
- To earn credit (amount of credit determined by the instructor) for an excused absence you must do two things:
  - 1) Immediately after your return to class, turn in approved/legal documentation to instructor. If you need the original documentation, the instructor will accept copies.
  - 2) Make-up the class with an approved assignment submitted on the required date. If the assignment is to attend another class as a make-up, it must be the same technical level, or lower; student must request permission of that instructor.

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)

### PROCESS SHOWINGS/ IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

This semester will be focus on process and creative thinking. There will be several showings of your work this semester, three progressions or studies and one final performance project. We will secure "showing

dates” in class together during the first week of classes. Below is a short list of example experiments we will explore and investigate in class. Any of these may assist you in designing your final project.

Art Inspiration Study/ Harn Museum

Poetry Study

Verb Directive Study

Gesture/Movie Study

Time/Space/Effort/Emotion Studies

New York Times Study

Music Study/ Choice Swap

Phrasing Study

History/Person Research

Prop Study

“Flash” assignments: response to spontaneous stimuli; exercises for the imagination

Reduction Study: the determination of the essence of composed materials; determining the “DNA” of the materials

## JOURNALS

It is important for you to have a notebook or journal for documentation of your progress on your dances and to jot down inspirations. Bring your journal with you to every class. This is your personal book of which I will collect, evaluate, and offer feedback or suggestions. Use it as a diary, if you will, to connect your thoughts of the moment into your dances of the future. Collection dates: 9/7, 9/28, 10/19, and 11/16.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Critique Assignment

You are required to write a paper of your critical thoughts on both the BFA Showcase showing this semester as well as a professional show at the PCPA. A ticket stub must accompany your critique and all papers due within one week of performance. You must attend 1 program (either A or B) at least once.

Specifications:

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 2-3 pages and proofread.

It must be submitted electronically as a .pdf attachment to: [trentw@ufl.edu](mailto:trentw@ufl.edu). The subject line for submission should read: “Comp 1 Critique, your full name.”

Headings for your document as follows:

Name

Class

Date of Submission

Title of Paper

All dance titles are underlined.

All quotations and references are to be correctly annotated.

No late papers will be accepted.

### 2. Final Project Performance / Reflection Paper

We will talk more in detail as a community regarding the possibilities of this project (solo vs. group work), but will include written documentation of the following:

Reflection Paper – a thoughtful compilation of in-class studies and outside inspirations written in your own personal style. References to attended events, rehearsals, and exhibits should support your paper.

EVALUATION

1. Process Showings	30 points	(3 @ 10 points each)
2. Progress/Effort/Comprehension/ Risk (cumulative)	10 points	
3. Journal Writings/ Entries	20 points	(4 collective dates for 5 points each)
4. Critique on BFA Showcase	10 points	
5. Critique on professional PCPA Performance	10 points	
6. Final Project Performance / Reflection Paper	20 points	
Total	100 points	

Your overall score may be affected by your attendance record.

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

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office

(<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**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 at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

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

[<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

#### GETTING HELP:

If applicable: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (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

#### Required Performance and Event Participation

To help you to “think outside the box,” you must venture outside the studio!

**BFA/BA Majors:** In addition to attending all classes, attendance is required at the following events plus 1 outside professional show. Your current instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing which will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

**Non-Majors:** Required = Agbedidi, one BFA Showcase Performance, one outside professional show. Your current instructor will provide guidelines as to proof of viewing which will be produced within one week after viewing production. Depending on your technique schedule, you may use these same events/performances for other technique classes, as well.

**Important Box Office Changes:** The (McGuire) University Box Office will open 45 minutes prior to the

opening of each Constans Theatre or McGuire Black Box production. All primary box office activity will now be handled at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center (Gate 1) Hours: Tuesday thru Friday Noon- 5:00, Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm (No Mondays)

#### Performance Behavior/Decorum:

- Yes, please dress nice!
- No cell phones/texting at all, ever, never during a performance (unless the show requests it!)
- Represent the SoTD at the show!

#### Performance and Event Dates

Dates/times subject to change – please check dance bulletin board and/or contact appropriate box office. You will receive a voucher (coupon) at the beginning of the semester for assigned SoTD productions with instructions of how to use it to get discount tickets. Viewing of SoTD plays is highly recommended, but not required. Non-majors, please verify event schedule with instructor, as you may not be required for attendance at all events.

- Organizational Meeting, G-6, Monday August 29, 6:30
- UnShowing #1, G-6, Monday September 12, 6:30-8:30
- UnShowing #2, G-6, Monday September 26, 6:30-8:30
- UnShowing #3, G-6, Monday October 3, 6:30-8:30
- UnShowing #4, G-6, Monday October 10, 6:30-9:30 Adjudication #1 (ACDA, Senior Solos, non-senior projects, etc.)
- UnShowing #5, G-6, Monday October 17, 6:30-finish Adjudication #2
- UnShowing #6, G-6, Monday October 24, 6:30-finish Program Showing
- **BFA Fall Dance Showcase** (SoTD Dance), G-6, November 2-6
- UnShowing #7 – Faculty Works in Progress, G-6, Monday November 14, 6:30-8:30
- **Agbedidi** (SoTD Dance), Constans Theatre, December 2-4
- UnShowing #8 - Final, G-6, Monday December 5, 6:30-8:30

#### Dance Productions

- **Dorrance Dance**, September 9, UFPA, 7:30
- **Alonzo King Lines Ballet**, September 29, UFPA, 7:30
- **Trisha Brown Dance (site specific)**, October 22, TBA
- **Young Dancer's Workshop**, October 28/29, Performances at Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall

#### Other SoTD Theatre Event Options

- **Stage Kiss** (Hipp/SoTD play) Hippodrome State Theatre, Opens September 2
- **The New Mrs. Tesman** (SoTD play) Opens September 23
- **Spring Awakening** (SoTD musical) Opens October 28  
UF Box Office #: (352) 392-1653  
UF Performing Arts (Phillips Center) #: (352) 392-2787  
SFC Fine Arts Hall Theatre (352) 395-4181

## 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 students 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.

Please Note: Our work in the studios is designed to be challenging; physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Dance classes often involve touching. Physical contact may range from simple touch, to correcting alignment and/or relaxation massage. Students may also be asked to experiment with exercises that involve weight exchange. If you have a related medical consideration or touch makes you uncomfortable, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the start of the semester.